

Complete guide to the weekend and beyond

20-page pull-out section

On location with Ken Loach

INSIDE TODAY'S NEW-LOOK SECTION TWO

Arts, page 6

The Passion for food: a tale for Easter

Cover Story



Germans hit hopes of end to beef ban

Abattoir standards condemned

DONALD MACINTYRE

As Germany yesterday dashed hopes of an early end to the beef crisis, Labout accused the Government of complacency in fail-ing to maintain standards in

Jochen Borchert, the Gerdeclared in a German radio interview: "Nobody seriously expects the han to be lifted in six weeks' time." At the same time. Douglas Hogg, the emhattled Minister of Agriculture, ad-mitted that he, too, did not know when it would he balted.

Mr Hogg - said by senior Whitehall sources to have the full backing of the Prime Minister despite speculation about his future - admitted be could not "put a timetable" on the ending of the ban, "My business is not to arouse expectations which I cannot fulfil," he said.

Mr Borchert's bleak prediction came as Labour renewed its assault on the Government by teleasing figures which it claimed showed a consistent failure to "regulate and enforce" high meat standards in laughterhouses.

of "complacency" after obtain- ruary - found only 6 per cent of vember 1994 showing 30 pet cent of slaughterhouses in Eng-land and Wales scored less than 50 out of 100 points for meat hygiene standards. Altogethet 80 per cent scored less than 70 under the hygiene assessment system, while only 1 pet cent were awarded more than 90.

Labour also highlighted an independent report from 1993 which warned that some slaughterhouses should have heen tempts to sustain the EU ban

closed down many years earli-er on public health grounds. And it said that the Government's own figures demonstrated in the autumn of 1995 that 48 per cent of slaughterhouses were failing to meet its specified hovine offal regula-

ions introduced in 1989. Jochen Borchert, the German minister of agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) said that while many hreaches of regulations had been minor there had been some serious cases. But the ministry had al-



teady taken steps to ensure aughterhouses. more stringent enforcement The party accused ministers and the latest audit - this Feb-SBO regulations.

Mt Hogg, who used last week's meeting of EU agriculture ministers in Luxemburg to explain Britain's proposals for a £3bn cull of 4 million older cattle, said the EU ministers had unrealistic expectacions of what measures the UK could take.

Some Whitehall sources suggested privately yesterday that the German government's atly to strengthen the hand of German provincial governments which face action in the European Court of Justice from Briosh meat traders over hans

on British beef last year.

Mr Hogg said on Radio 4's

World at One that he had offered confidence-building measures beyond those that were recommended by the Government's scientific advisers. "I think they had unhased expectadons as to what one can do. There was constant talk, for example, of eradicating BSE in a very short period of time as a condition of lifting the ban.

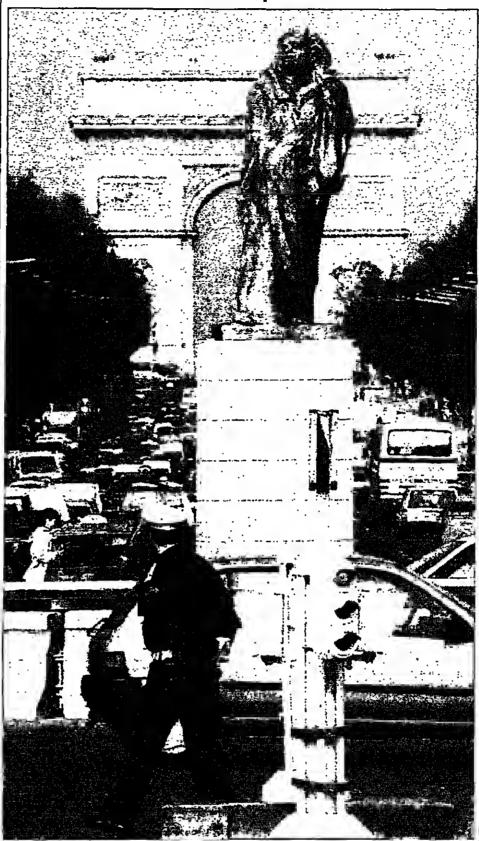
Now that is simply not possible." Under repeated questioning he at first tried to laugh off sugestions he may resign. Pressed further be said: "Obviously I am doing my job as best I can . . if people come to a different solution, so he it. That's life."

Harriet Harman, Labour's spokeswoman on bealth, said action to improve standards in abattoirs was now essential if confidence in beef was to be re-stored. While public confidence in British beef remains weak, the Government is still failing to act. The Government's concern not to regulate has left the consumer at risk and the meat industry vulner

'Cleaner abattoirs mean safer meat. Safer meat means consumer confidences at home and abroad."

The most encouraging sign for the Government was that Sainsbury's reported fresh beef sales in its supermarkets were 70 per cent up on last week. After a balf-price promotion, sales for Tuesday and Wednes-

Rodin becomes a pavement artist



Auguste Rodin's statue of Baizac goes on display in the centre of Paris's Champs Elsyée as part of an exhibition called "les Champs de la Sculpture" which alms to put famous day were reportedly "steady" at as part of an exhibition called "les C 80 per cent of normal trading, works of art on show along the road

Insurer tried to halt child abuse inquiry

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES Legal Affairs Editor

FRIDAY 5 APRIL 1996

tried to prevent a council investigating one of Britain's worst child sex-ahuse scandals. saying that it would he a "hostage to fortune" and a

dress-reheursal" for claimants. The behaviour of the Municipal Mutual, insurer of Clwyd County Council, impinged on normal democratic procedures. according to the suppressed independent report into the ahuse scandal at care homes in the county.

Exclusive extracts from the re-port seen by the *Independent* also show that fears by the Mu-nicipal Mutual of victims' legal actions helped to ensure that a full teport of an earlier investigadon into the abuse was never seen by elected councillors. and was confined to a very small group of senior personne within Clwyd social services.

Clwyd, which was split into three councils last Monday. commissioned an independent inquiry panel led by former Derbyshire social services di-tector, John Jillings, two years ago but capitulated to threats by the insurers, whose husiness is now handled by Zurich Mutual. that the county's insurance covet would be tevoked if the report was published. The latest insights into what

is likely to rank as one of the most serious cover-ups of professional failure show that the insurers opposed the Jillings' inquiry from the outset, while the Welsh Social Services Inspectorate children's home for six years.

Councillors appointed the Jillings team in response to fears that a paedophile ring had taken hold in children's homes over a 20-year period of abuse. The panel uncarthed disciplinary proceedings against 51 care staff going back to 1974 and 13 convictions, and described the abuse of children as "frankly ap-palling". But in February 1994 the insurers wrote to Clwyd's county secretary saying that the inquiry would be "a hostage to fortune ... Every inquiry is a further dress-rehearsal for claimants and a further incentive

to the 'bandwagon' syndrome'."

The report says that the interests of the insurers "impinges on the established democratic and constitutional arrangements of England and Wales.

The 1990 conviction of Stephen Norris, officer in charge at Cartrefle children's home, for indecently assaulting three hoys was one of the first outward signs of a much wider abuse regime, but usual proce-dures do not appear to have heen followed.

Since Norris - later convicted of buggering boys at the Bryn Estyn home — had worked for the council for nearly 20 years. his past contacts with children came up for review. But on the insistence of Municipal Mutual, the inter-agency Area Child Protection Committee was only ever allowed to see a 10-page synopsis of a critical report it had commissioned outside experts to carry out. The social services committee was also confined to receiving the summary.

The explanation was that some matters were sub judice because of an ongoing police in-quiry, but the Jillings investigation teports a letter from the county solicitor saying: "in addition, the ... insurers indi-cated that the county council could in certain circumstances invalidate its insurance cover."

Social-work experts said yestetday that no investigator would wish to prejudice crimid prosecutions. way reports were written rarely raised that kind of risk. It was also "highly unusual", according to one social-work inspector, for relevant councillors not to receive a full report.

Denise Platt, director of social services for the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said: "We take this very seriously indeed. It's not just a social services issue. It's an issue of public accountability."

'Unabomber' raid ends longest manhunt



Theodore "Ted" Kaczynski: A device was found in his cabin

IN BRIEF

Tesco has created 4,500 new jobs to provide teams of "customer

assistants" to offer extra help in

its 548 supermarkets. Page 5

A chief constable has attacked

Michael Howard's plan to jail

Death row plea
A former British racehorse
owner on Florida's death row

has made a last-minute plea for

Dry with sunny spells in most

Section two, page 21

Today's weather

Howard attacked

more people.

a retrial.

Helping hands

RUPERT CORNWELL

Theodore "Ted" Kaczynski, the former Harvard graduate and University of California mathematics professor suspected of being America's deadly "Un-abomber", was yesterday in-dicted on a first formal charge hy federal prosecutors in Montana.

According to FBI officials, the man they believe carried out an 18-year campaign of letter-bombings across the country, was heing indicted in the cour-thouse at the state capital of Helena on a single count of ure have taught the authorities possessing a bomh. The device to he cautious, they finally

near the small town of Lincoln on Wednesday afternoon.

The charge means that Mr Kaczynski, detained when he tried to prevent the search, can continue to he held in custody while further evidence is amassed at the cabin - evidence the FBI hopes will conclusive-ly identify him as the Unabomber, responsible for killing three people and wounding 23 others in 16 separate attacks, the first of them in May, 1978.

Although long years of fail-

hermit's existence without electricity or running water could take several days - not least because of fears of boohy traps. But the FBI has reportedly already found chemicals and

bomh diagrams, as well as the partially prepared bomh. Kaczynski was not formally arrested when he was taken into custody on Wednesday afternoon, grim-faced and bearded. his hair dishevelled and dressed in a torn hlack shirt and hlack jeans gashed at the knees.

For several weeks, federal

was apparently discovered by inveso gators as they searched Mr Kaczynski's remote cabin believe they have caught their man. The examination of the case seems to have come from tips from family members, especially David Kaczynski, who nonced similarioes between some of his hrother Theodore's earlier writings and published material

from the Unahomber. The manhunt which may now have climaxed has been the longest and most expensive in the FBI's history, led by a permanent 40-man task-force hased in San Francisco. Over the years of the invesogation. 200 people were hriefly de-

tained before heing released. But Mr Kaczynski is by far agents had kept his ramshackle the strongest suspect so far

unearthed. Apart from the physical evidence reportedly discovered at his cahin, be fits the identificit profileperfectly.
Just as the FBI's psychological
portrait of their quarry suggested, he is a white male, welleducated, meticulous and

deeply antisocial.

Mr Kaczynski lived as a recluse in remote Montana for at least a decade, hardly known by his neighbours, who considered him a quiet and harmless eccentric. The Unabomher's attacks have taken place all over the country. The last two, both of which were fatal, occurred in New Jersey in December 1994, and in California in April 1995.

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Why it's a slow life even in the fast lane

Science Correspondent and ROB CRANE

For drivers ncross Britain this Easter, it will be a familiar scenario: sit in a jam for hours, only to find, when the traffic begins to move again, that there was no apparent reason for it,

Now, a super-computer produced by a team of scientists in Edinburgh has shown what causes inexplicable hold-ups: drivers who sit in the middle lane, and those who follow too closely behind the car in front, and have to brake abruptly.

Mark Smith, marketing director for Quadstone, a spin-off company formed by the Edinin the four-lane section, when hurgh team. He said an aero- all are properly used, you can plane passing overhead, or an get 8,000 vehicles past a point

accident on the other side of the man hour," said Dr Smith, weekend as holidaymakers are road, can lead to a "shockwave" "When you get everyone joined on the roads by people of braking, which travels back hunched into the outside lane, tempted out by good weather. through the traffic queue, as dri-vers react to brake lights in front by braking themselves at up to and a car travelling at the same 12 miles per hour. This means that five minutes after the event occurred, people a mile away are still slowing down.

When the traffic is heavy, that quickly leads to "flow breakdown", wherever the number of cars on the road is at a critical level - around a bundred cars passing any point every minute. The result a traffic jam appears from nowhere. Bad lane disci-You'd be surprised at what pline, such as middle lane bog-people slow down for," said ging, makes it more likely by reducing the road's capacity.
"On the M25, we found that

speed as the lorry in the third lane, the flow falls to 2,500 vehicles." Their work, in a project called Paramics, at the univer-sity's Parallel Computing Centre, may lead to "traffic forecasts" that enable drivers to find out which roads will be busy, based on the traffic which

is already on them. Those setting off for Easter breaks may have been grateful for forecasts yesterday as big jams built up, with routes out of many big cities described as "a

nightmare". Motorists have been warned to expect long delays over the 1.5 million Britons will spend

A spokesman for the RAC because there's an empty inside said yesterday: "There are certain points around the country where it really is horrendous. We're looking at some pretty bad delays." Routes out of London and in the West Midlands were particularly busy, as

> ports and ports. And an AA spokesman warned drivers to plan journeys to avoid bottlenecks. "It looks like the weather is going to be great, so the coast and many Easter events could well attract record crowds."

were all roads leading to air-

Forecasters predict it will remain sunny until tomorrow when it will become cloudier, although it should stay dry. About



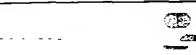
Heathrow yesterday handling 165,000 passengers. In all, 2 million passengers will pass through the airport by 13 April. Transport failure, page

the boliday abroad, with

BUSINESS 22-25 COMMENT 26,21 CROSSWORD 32 GAZETTE 18 ONE LEADING ARTICLES 20 LETTERS 20 NEWS ANALYSIS 19
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IN BRIEF

potentially negligent or below standard in almost four in 10 cases, a leaked report shows. Redundancy cases, discrimination or job security and maternity leave are areas singled out

Advice bureaux 'negligence' claim Employment advice offered by Citizen's Advice Bureaux is

for particular criticism. Only 20 per cent of all advice was classified as "good", according to an external audit based on an examination of 319 cases taken from 16 bureaux.

PC in good nick

A 31-year-old police constable

has been honoured for his out-

standing devotion to public ser-

vice after making 287 arrests in

the past 11 months. Peter

Hilton, who serves with the

Greater Manchester force, has

been commended by his Chief

A Briton has been stabbed to

death in Australia in an attack

described by detectives as

"pointless and frenzied". The

body of Gawen Whalley, 22, be-

lieved to be from Poole, Dorset,

was found in a pool of blood on

a pavement in a Sydney suburb.

He arrived in the country in

September on a working visa.

Girl's brain surgery

A schoolgirl has undergone

emergency brain surgery after heing attacked by another girl

in the street. Donna Murga-

troyd, 14, of Manchester Road,

Bradford, was kicked and

punched to the ground by the

Stabbing horror

Constable, David Wilmot.

Group.

Details of the report, which was commissioned by the National Association of Citizen's Advice Bureaux, are revealed in Legal Action - the monthly journal of the Legal Action

Top police chief joins attack on jail plans

Home Affairs Correspondent

A senior police officer broke ranks yesterday and joined the judiciary's attack on the Home Secretary's plans to incarcerate thousands more men and women under sweeping sen-

tencing reforms. The Chief Constable of Humberside, Tony Leonard's surprise criticisms of Michael Howard's sweeping sentencing reforms, came as the new head of the Prison Service said that 25 new jails would be needed over the next 10 years - at an estimated cost of more than £6bn - to cope with the explo-

spent on crime prevention

sion in the prison population. Mr Leonard forced Mr Howard on to the defensive. when the Home Secretary was on a visit to Grimsby. Mr Leonard - who was showing off his force's new high-speed pur-suit car - called into question the whole basis of Mr Howard's sweeping sentencing reforms, outlined in Wednesday's White

Mr Leonard said the hundreds of millions of pounds a group of organisations conthe Government was planning huilding programme would be better spent on crime prevention and questioned the minimum sentences for violent and sex offenders, and repeat hurglars and drug dealers.

He said: "It's going to cost an awful lot of money in terms of huilding new prisons. I'd rather see that money ploughed into policing and preventing crime. And he added: "I agree with the Lord Chief Justice in that

I don't think Parliament should

Richard Tilt: Wants cash

set minimum sentences. The law should set maximum sentences and should trust the judiciary to implement sensible arrangements as to the length of the

It was a major embarrass-ment for Mr Howard. For - until yesterday - the police were the only professionals within the criminal justice system to have voiced support for the American-style mandatory sentences which have angered the judiciary, probation officers, the Bar and penal reform groups. Although some senior officers known to share Mr Leonard's views, none have spoken out so publicly.

But Mr Howard sought to brush off the criticisms, insisting most police supported his plans and that the Government was already giving them extra resources.

"The money will be found. We are already giving more money to the police - we will have 5,000 more police officers in the next five years," he said. "A maximum sentence is not

a sufficient deterrent. These views [Mr Leonard's] are not the views of the police generally and I am very pleased that my proposals are being supported by the people at the sharp end of the law

Meanwhile, during a visit to Gartree Prison in Leicestershire, Richard Tilt, who has taken over the running of the Prison Service following the sacking of Derek Lewis, said the moves would lead to a massive prison huilding programme.
"We need to huild another 10

prisons to cope with the already expected rise in the prison population. We're looking at a programme that will include a total of 25 prisons over the next ten to 12 years, he said. But Paul Cavadino, chair of

the Penal Affairs Consortium, cerned with prisoners' welfare, er of jails need said the nu ed could be even greater than

the 25 envisaged by Mr Tilt. The White Paper underestimated the new total of prisoners, firstly by exaggerating the deterrent effect of tougher sentences and secondly by assum-ing that judges would hand down shorter sentences under

the new system. He warned that the number of prisoners could rise by 30,000 rather than the 10,000 estimated by the White Paper.



Clarke pins poll hopes on tax cuts

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

The return of the feel good factor was forecast yesterday by Kenneth Clarke on the eve of the 1p-in-the-pound cuts in income-tax taking effect.

Campaigning in the Stafford-shire South-East by-election, Mr Clarke said the Conservative candidate, Jimmy James, should be the "first beneficiary of the feelgood factor" from the tax cuts in the Budget which he estimated would benefit average families by £9 a week.

"It's a happy coincidence I am here the day before they get their tax reductions, which for family finances is probably the higgest benefit they have had so far," the Chancellor said. Clear-

Gerry Adams: 'It's very

difficult to interpret'

ly in a hullish mood, he added: "I enjoy campaigning, particularly when everyone agrees the economy is doing extremely well and is going to get better.

"Businessmen tell me how

much hetter things are. Campaigning this year, we are going to meet people who are bene-fiting in their family finances."

But his remarks could prove a hostage to fortune on Thursday when Labour's candidate, Brian Jenkins, leader of the local Tamworth Council, is poised to take the seat and reduce John Major's majority to one. The Chancellor left the Con-

servatives open to the charge that it is his economic strategy which will be on test in the byelection in which the Tories are defending a majority of 7,192, my James in Tamworth should midweek shoppers - the buggy-

following the death of former be the beneficiary of the feel-Whip. Sir David Lightbown. good factor coming back into the Midlands. The Chancellor said that Tam-

sage is going to get home.
"It is the sort of place that ought to vote Conservative - you only need to look at Tamworth

to see." he said. The local Chamber of Commerce, in its quarterly report, said three in five firms were reporting an increase in order book levels with more than

worth was "the heart of the

country. This is where our mes-

half of the firms saying growth was set to continue. Mr Clarke said: "The general election could be as far away as next May. We have a long period in which the economy will continue to revive. I think Jim-

But there was evidence

ping centre he visited that the recovery is patchy. He went to a jeans shop where he was told by Dawn

around the Ankerside shop-

Sedgwick, the manangeress, that husiness was "stable". "He said we were in hlue so

we must be voting Tory. I am voting Labour," she said. Katherine Brown, owner of Ragtime, a children's clothes shop, said: "The real economy is lower now than it was during the recession. The public have no confidence to spend."

She said the National Lottery was partly to hlame. "We get

squad - who used to come out to pick up an outfit for £4.99. Now they huy scratch cards."

As the Chancellor toured the shopping centre, he encountered all the Government's problems - an anti-European housewife, a pensioner complaining about the lack of government help and a man who challenged Mr Clarke to admit taxes had gone up under the Tories, Mr Clarke was also emharrassed by his own inflation when he refused to allow himself to be photographed having his tummy measured at the opening of an outsize suit shop.

General election, 1992: Light-

bown, D (Con), 29,180; jenkins, b (Lab) 21,988; Penlington, G

one last chance to enter talks.

but that during the period of the

endless prevarication and finally

His colleague, Ken Maginnis,

added: "Sinn Fein are lost be-

cause they don't have an agen-

da that can be met through the

they don't have a mandate.

They will simply be an ugly boil

on the landscape of politics for

Figures from almost all parts of the Irish political landscape

paid tribute yesterday to Ron Brown, the US Commerce Sec-

retary who died in a plane

crash in Croatla on Wednesday.

for his role in the American ini-

tiative to increase investment in

They are beaten because

democratic process.

many years to come."

with bombs.

initially went to hospital complaining of headaches, was last night in a "stable" condition at Leeds General Infirmary

girl as she walked home from school last week. Donna, who after surgeons removed two blood clots. Cut-price funeral A pensioner who campaigned for cheaper funerals yesterday had the cut-price send-off he had planned for years. Teddy Corbett-Winder, 79, a former

Age Concern worker from Exeter, was cremated in the £67 (LibDem); Taylor, J (SDP), 895; chipboard coffin he bought seven years ago after criticising the

Car sales down Continued lack of consumer confidence drove new car sales down 0.87 per cent last month has been announced. A total of 180,275 new cars were sold in March compared with 181,849 last year, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said. The fleet and company car straws. He said Sinn Fein had sector rose 3.9 per cent last

prices charged by funeral tirms.

month, but private sales were 6.6 per cent down. Louts in the frame

A police force has unveiled plans to shoot videos of children's loutish behaviour and play them back to their parents at the police station. Beat patrol officers will be armed with a video camera to film youngsters involved in street violence, graffiti and even littering in Gosport, Hampshire. Some video evidence may be used in

Travel bonus Travel giant Thomas Cook is to give away £100 holiday spending money with every summer 1996 holiday hooked from tomorrow until April 15. The deal - an attempt to kick-start the sluggish summer package market – applies to holidays departing between May 1 and September 30 to be taken by two adults staying at least five

Labour poll history

Labour has made polling history by becoming the first party to enjoy such a massive lead over its rivals and sustain that lead for the longest period. A poll in today's Daily Telegraph shows that Labour continues to lead the Tories by roughly 30 points, a margin it has maintained since Tony Blair succeeded John Smith as leader in mid-

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Easter message from ERA keeps strategic options open

Rail freight to

slash workforce

DAVID MCKITTRICK Ireland correspondent

The intentions of the IRA remained shrouded in mystery yesterday, with political opinion sharply divided on the meaning of the organisation's Easter message to the republican faith-

The statement contained an unconcealed threat of violence in the future, hut also said the IRA remained ready to help in developing the conditions which will allow for a meaningful negotiations process, free from

preconditions of any kind." The Ulster Unionist Party interpreted this as an indication that no new ceasefire is to be expected before 10 June, the date set for all-party talks. But the SDLP leader, John Hume, said he saw a chink of light in the mention of possible negotiations.

Skin patches

can ease the

baby blues'

Skin patches of the female hor-

mone oestrogen can help women suffering from post-

natal depression, new research

A study showed that the

patches, similar to the nicotine

patches used by smokers, had

a positive result in a group of 34 depressed women.

Dr John Studd, from Cheisea

and Westminster Hospital in

London, carried out research

with colleagues from Salisbury

in Wiltshire. He said he did not

know why the patches worked,

Oestrogen is a hormone

and, in pregnant women, in the

placenta. Of 64 women with

major depression, 34 were treat-

ed with oestrogen patches for

three months and 27 with an

inert placeho for the same

period of time. The depression

experienced by the women was

assessed monthly. By the end of

the first month, the women

receiving the oestrogen had

A research paper published in

The Lancet today said the study

had shown "that transdermal

oestrogen is an effective treat-

shown a big improvement.

but the results were clear.

The IRA has carried out no attacks in Britain or Northern Ireland since the four London bombing incidents which followed the end of its 17-month ceasefire last month. While this is interpreted by some as a positive sign that the organisa-tion is not intent on a full-scale resumption of violence, it seems unlikely that this stance will be

continued indefinitely. The general uncertainty was encapsulated by the Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, who

said: "It's very difficult to interpret or translate the situation. cause we all live with the a reality of an end to the cessation. and therefore one could hear on the next news broadcast reports of some IRA operation." The signs are that even Sinn Fein, which once acknowledged itself as the IRA's political wing, has been cut out of the decision-

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR

Transport correspondent

Up to half the 7,600 staff work-

ing for the four rail-freight companies bought by the US

company, Wisconsin Central,

are likely to lose their jobs

over the coming six months.

North and South Railways,
the Wisconsin subsidiary, which

recently took over Loadhaul,

Mainline Freight, Rail Express Systems and Transrail, an-

nounced yesterday it has writ-ten to all staff asking for

A spokesman said: "A pack-

age is on offer which will take

into account people's age, cur-

rent salary and years in service.

All staff have received details of

the scheme and will be given the

opportunity to discuss their op-tions over the coming weeks."

In announcing the scheme,

the company said it wanted to

make cost reductions in order

to increase its share of the

Birkhardt, is taking an aggres-

sive attitude to freight and is

determined to increase the mar-

ket share from road, which is

The head of Wisconsin, Ed

total British freight market.

volunteers for redundancy.

making loop. The general mood is Sinn Fein circles, largely as a straws. He said Sinn Fein had result of this, is sombre and pes-Mr Hume's positive approach is based, he explained, cessation they had reacted with

on the IRA indication that it remained ready to develop conditions which would allow for meaningful negotiations. He said he and Mr Adams were engaged in intense activity to bring about a new ceasefire.

Given the amount of mistrust in the air, there is speculation that some of this activity could involve attempts to have the US government or others help guarantee that a ceasefire would lead to talks which were substantive rather than an attempt to pillory the republicans and merely to demand arms decommissioning. However, the Ulster Union-

ist leader, David Trimble, said

Although the company re-

fused to name a figure for joh

losses, Mr Birkhardt has already

suggested more than 3,000 jobs

could go when the companies

are merged into one operation.

freight companies were, in fact,

de-merged by the Government

only two years ago, in an effort to boost competition on the rail-

ways. But Mr Birkhardt's offer

for £225m for all three per-

suaded the Government to sell

them as one group. The four

companies made profits of

about £70m on a turnover of

£620m in 1994/5. Job losses

were inevitable, given the merg-

er of the three companies to-

gether with Res, which runs the

mail trains and the Royal train.

as 4,000 jobs could go. A spokesman for RMT, which

represents most railworkers

apart from drivers and white-

collar staff, said: "We are con-

cerned that the job losses

envisaged do not square with

the company's declared strate-

gy of growth. We shall contin-

ue with our talks with the

company. Our policy has always

been that there should be no

compulsory redundancies."

Unions believe that as many

The three heavy-haul rail-

Northern Ireland. Going from platform 4 to eternity

JOJO MOYES

Old sailors get sprinkled onto the waves, while proud gar-deners end up fertilising their rose hushes. Where better for the trainspotter to end his final journey than pulled into the

Fans of coal and steam and ardent followers of number plates may soon be able to enter the big sleep by sleeper, as plans are being drawn up for Britain's first burial ground for railway huffs. The organisation behind the

plans, the Midland Railway Trust in Ripley. Derbyshire aims to set up a trackside cemetery and hold wakes in its dining cars after the departed has departed from platform 4.

A planning application to change the use of a one-and-ahalf-acre site at Golden Valley has been lodged with Amber Valley Borough Council and the borough council is due to discuss the plan later this month.

"The intention is to build a small station, adjacent to the hurial site so that special trains will be able to stop there," said Alan Calladine, spokesman for the Midland Railway centre.

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Human rights appeal: Racehorse owner facing electric chair asks for retrial in Florida court

Last hope for death row Briton

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

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Stabbing home:

A former leading British racehorse owner on Florida's death . row yesterday made an eleventh hour plea for a retrial in an attempt to prove his innocence.

Geoffrey Robertson, QC, a leading London human rights lawyer, was given a special hearing before the state's Supreme Court, to argue that Krishna Maharaj's first trial was flawed and that there was now new evidence which cast doubt on his conviction.

Maharaj, now aged 57, has heen on death row in a Florida jail - just a short drive from Disneyworld - for nearly 10 years. He was convicted of the assassination of two wealthy husinessmen, Derrick Moo Young, 53, and his son Duane, 23, in a Miami Hotel room - both for-

mer associates. By the narrowest seven to five verdict, he was sentenced to death.

The case again focuses attention on American use of the electric chair after the execution last year of British-born Nick Ingram. But bis lawyers say that unlike the case of Ingram, there exists real doubt about Maharaj's guilt, as well as grave concerns about the trial.

tained his innocence. He admitted that he was in the hotel that night, hut claimed he was lured there by a man who failed to show up for the appointment. Since his trial, however, it has emerged that the company which insured the two dead men found they were probably the

victims of a drug-related hit

Maharaj has always main-

Krishna Maharaj (left), on death row for 10 years, whose



last hope lies with appeal by Geoffrey Robertson (right)

and not hecause of any connection with Maharaj, who was then running a newspaper for

ularities, particularly the arrest of the trial judge for al-legedly taking hribes. His

lawyers say that evidence point-ing to other suspects and away from Maharaj was wrongly withheld by the prosecution. They also maintain that as he was about to win a damages claim for breach of contract from the two men, so had no motive for the killing.

Yesterday Mr Robertson - a the judges that unless they ordered a retrial "the state of Florida will be responsible for taking the tife of a man whose innocence was never fully tested". He said they had a duty under the UN Human Rights Convention to ensure that there was no room for doubt.

John Major has refused to intervene on Maharaj's behalf, but Mr Robertson was speaking with the support of more than 100 cross-party MPs and the Bar's human rights committee.

Maharaj - renowned in the world of horse racing - will now have to wait after the judges reserved their decision, but yesterday's hearing is regarded as his best hope of escaping the electric chair.

Born in Trinidad, Mahara moved to Britain in 1960 and amassed a fortune importing veteran of death row cases - told fruit from the Caribbean. His passion was horse racing and he bought stables at Lambourn and Middleham, producing many winners. He moved to Florida in the mid-1980s.

None of his former racing friends believe he is capable of murder. But the US prosecutors ctain he lured the Moo Youngs to the hotel and killed them, because of rivalries with another community newspaper.

The Supreme Court is likely to reach its decision within a

Fury as inquest finds no fault over toddler's death

The parents of a 23-month-old child who died during surgery after being shuttled between four hospitals in eight hours yesterday vowed to sue a health authority for alleged negligence after an inquest jury returned a verdict of death by natural causes.

Robert Benton died of acute bronchiolitis which kills only I per cent of child sufferers, although he was operated on for a suspected blockage to the windpipe at Heartlands Hospi-

tal, east Birmingham. As the coroner, Dr Richard Whittington, directed the jury to return a verdict of natural causes and not to pass blame, the boy's parents Julie Benton, 23, and Timothy Dawes, 32, stormed out of Birmingham

Coroner's Court. Inside, relatives hurled abuse at chest surgeon Joseph Khalil Marzouk, who performed the bronchoscopy. He sat expressionless as they turned on the jurors. "I hope your consciences are clear," yelled one.

Outside, Ms Benton, who is expecting her second child later this month, said: "I feel that the summing up was very onesided. When he first suggested natural causes as the verdict I felt sick. 'I think there was more that could have been done. Robert had a chest infection but that was not life threatening. I feel be should still be here with us today."

She claimed the coroner had overlooked evidence from in-



dependent surgeons and the pathologist who had disputed the treatment given to Robert. Mr Marzouk said he died as

a result of tracheo malacia, a birth defect which led to the collapse of his windpipe. However, pathologist Dr David Rushton said he had found no evidence of the rare congenital disorder despite three doctors in the operating theatre claiming they had identified the defect after discovering there was no foreign body or mucus

blocking his trachea.

He said the post-mortem examination had shown that Robert died on 7 June last year of a double lung collapse caused

by acute bronchiolitis. He claimed that as a result of artificial ventilation during surgery his diseased lungs had probah torn under the pressure and led

to his death. An independent consultant anaesthetist, Dr Roger Thornington, criticised the surgeon for not having inserted a chest drain which would have removed gases from his body and possibly saved his life. Had the bronchial infection been diagnosed at an early stage, he sug-gested, Robert could have been treated with antiobiotics and re-

covered in intensive care. However, the coroner commented: "I do not think we will

ever be sure but the underlying cause of death was a naturally occuring infection.

"It would be naive to think that every death on the operating table is an accident or misadventure."

Summing up the three-day bearing, the coroner recalled bow Robert was taken by his parents to Sandwell Hospital near their home in Rowley Regis, West Midlands, but they left after 10 minutes, concerned at the chaos they found in the casualty department.

They drove him 10 miles to Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield, where doctors diag-

nosed a suspected blockage

and organised a transfer to Birmingham Children's Hospital. On arrival, no beds were available so he was sent to Heartlands where he died during surgery, eight hours after

first being taken to Sandwell. The coroner said he did not believe the delay in treatment had affected the outcome, and in view of the fact that hospitals in the region had tightened the protocol for the transfer of patients, he did not feel the need

to make any recommendations. Solicitor Stephanie Forman, representing the family, said the verdict would not deter them from pursuing a case for alleged negligence against the West

thority: "We feel we have every chance of winning and in addition we are going to instigate some form of inquiry into the findings of the inquest."

A statement on behalf of the four hospitals visited by Robert said: "Communications between hospitals were not clear and lack of clarity in communications is of serious concern to all the hospitals.

"New procedures have been put in hand. Now staff requesting a transfer are directed to contact a receiving hospital themselves to check that facilities are available before a transfer actually commences."



Classic art: The E-type - Jaguar's new museum piece

New York salutes E-type as art

New York yesterday honoured the classic É-type Jaguar by declaring the British sports car an official "work of art".

At the same time Jaguar unveiled a new open-top version to its classic 1960s model at the US city's motor show.

The British car maker cbose New York to show off the new XX8 convertible because it expects seven in 10 of all models built to be sold in the US. The coupe version of the new car was given its public debut at last

month's Geneva motor show. Billed as the successor to the XJS but looking more like the famous E-Type, the XK8 is expected to sell for just under £60,000 from October.

While motoring fans drooted over the new machine, an original E-type roadster went on permanent display alongside

A MARKET

paintings and sculptures at the New York Museum of Modern Art. It is only the third ever car to get such an honour - the others being a Ferrari Formula 1 racer and a Pinanfarina Cistalia A spokeswoman for Jaguar

said: "This is a great privilege to be honoured by the museumin this way as the new model was being unveiled in the city."

The E-type first went into production 35 years ago and the convertible version was also unveiled in New York.

Michael Dale, president of Jaguar Cars North America. said: "When Jaguar introduces an all-new sport car it is a significant event in the automotive world. To have the world debut of the XK8 convertible in New York underscores the importance of the North American market to Jaguar."

Inquiry as NHS manager gets £35,000 pay-off and new post

LOUISE JURY and TONY HEATH

An investigation has been launched into how a manager vas appointed to a £38,000 job m the NHS within days of receiving a £35,000 redundancy pay-off from a health service post just five miles away.

Rhodri Morgan, Labour's Welsh health spokesman, said vesterday that the case raised important questions about the future of the NHS including how the Conservatives' breakpublic money. "It cannot be right in law for somebody to leave a [health] trust in the NHS and pop up a week later in another NHS job having just collected a cheque," he said.

bran-based Gwent Community Health Trust at the end of December with a redundancy award of £35,000 after her job as business development manager was axed in a re-organisa-

tion aimed at securing hudget cuts of £250,000 a year. Within days, she was appointed policy and performance director of the new Gwent Health Authority at Pontypool. five miles from her former office, at £38,000 a year. The post was advertised only in the NHS.

William Hague, Secretary of up of the service was costing the state for Wales, is now investigating after protests from the Gwent Community Health Council, which represents patients, and Mr Morgan, MP for Cardiff West. The authority has ordered its own in-Julie Sharma left the Cwmvestigation and Mr Morgan has

also asked the Audit Commission to intervene.

Mrs Sharma's former employer, the Gwent Community Health Trust, which provides mental health, learning disability and community services for the county, claims it had no choice hut to compensate her when her post was abolished.

Bob Hudson, the chief executive, said the authority and trust were independent employers. "If we make some-body redundant, we bave ohigations to them in law." The issue was a national one and had come to a head because the NHS re-organisation had created more employers, he said.

Mr Morgan said the situation was "patently absurd". Anyone continuing work in the NHS should not be awarded re-

dundancy. "The Government can't bave it both ways. It says the trusts are within the NHS in which case they're not separate employers. There is only one occupational pension scheme for the service.

An additional factor in this case was the advertisement of the position internally. "Mrs Sharma was clearly not entitled to apply as an internal candidate if she had been made redundant from the NHS. But if she was still considered an NHS employee then she should not have been awarded severance pay."

Mr Hague, who has asked for a report on procedures, said in a written answer "a person who is no longer employed in the National Health Service would not be eligible for a job restricted to existing employees"

Lie detectors winkle out fishy tales

DANIEL ROSEMAN

Fishermen who claim a share of a £50,000 prize have been told that they must pass a lie detector test to check that they are not exaggerating.

The firm organising the contest, Normark Sports, imposed the rule after its insurers said that they were worried about tall stories in the search for the record catch of a predatory fish, using a plastic lure, between next June and December 1999. John

Mitchell, the managing director of the Devon-based company, said: "This is a safeguard for us but also a safeguard for winners.

"I would not want a legitimate claimant not to win, or to win a smaller amount of monev, because of a fraudulent claim." But he was quick to stress that most anglers would

not lie in order to win. "I would emphasise that the vast majority of British anglers are completely honest," he said. Colin Scull, of the British Record Fish Committee, agreed. "I have been involved in angling all my life and I do not think there is a more honourable bunch of people than

anglers. But some anglers are prone to exaggeration. In 1987, taxidermist Roy Whitehall was awarded the British record for a 43lb 12oz pike. But fraud was discovered when a man recognised the fish as one he had caught and sent for stuffing.

Whitehall still ended up a winner when the fake fish was sold

for £4,200 at auction. Another famous fraud involved a Swiss angler Jurgen Notzli, who in the Eighties bought huge fish and "caught" them in his garden pond.

Lie detectors are not new in fishing, though. A United States competition, the "Crappiethon", used them to test anglers claiming \$25,000 (£16,500) for catching fish specially which had been stretched. Mr marked with plastic tags.



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Childminder tragedy spurs call for reform

Training and registration of childminders need to be improved to preveot a repetition of the death of Helen Sangar, the baby shaken to death by her minder, according to a report published yesterday.

The report calls on the

Department of Health to issue lougher requirements for minders, including a training pro-gramme before they are placed on a local-authority register, and the keeping of an accide ot logbook for children in their care.

David Lane, a childcare consultant and the author of the report, recommended local authorities should allow funds for staff to offer support to childminders, but also called on parents to take a more active role in alerting social services to potential problems.

dures had been in place nine

might have been detected and the life of Helen Sangar saved.

While in Cawthorne's care in 1984. Leila Ipakchi, two, died of severe head injuries. A verdict of accidental death was recorded, and Cawthorne was allowed to remain on Sheffield city council's childminding register, although she had never been formally trained. Helen Sanger later died in her care.

Mr Lane said: "It is clear that a oumber of factors around the time of Leila's death could have led to a closer examination of eveots. In view of the state of knowledge and the systems then in operation, however, it is understandable that no action

was taken at the time. Since then, systems have been improved and tightened up and if such eveots were to happen today there would be in-

years ago, the unsuitability of countable for taking the ap-baby-killer Susan Cawthorne propriate action."

spot-checks on childminders

and for all injuries requiring

medical attention to be inves-

tigated. There should be a

greater willingness" to dereg-

The couple also accused Mr

Lane of "letting off" those who

"in our view are guilty of failing to protect all Sheffield children

in the care of childminders. If

the correct actions had been tak-

en, it would have led to the questioning of Mrs Cawthome's suitability as a childminder,

and so our daughter might still

Cawthorne, 43, was jailed for four years last year for

manslaughter. Mr Sangar and

Ms Alstoo are now considering

whether legal action is possible

"We intend to continue to

campaign to make childmind-

ing safer so that no other par-

ents have to face the trauma we

following the report.

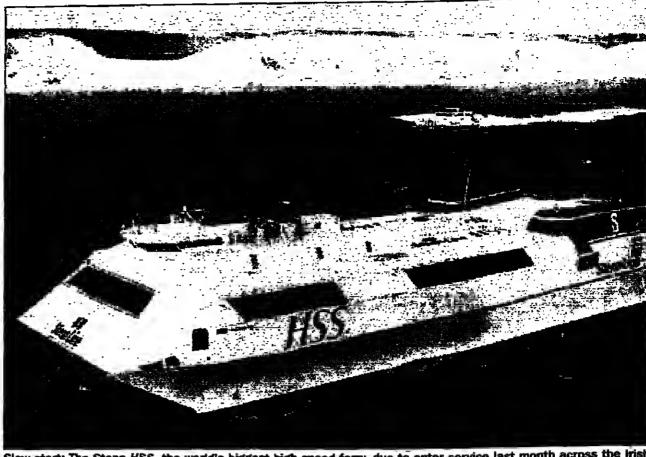
be with us".

The area child protection team in Sheffield, which ordered his report, has already implemented many of the recommendations. Martin Manby, social services director, said the childminders themselves had been anxious to make improvements although the service remained "critically dependent" on parents io day-to-day contact with child-

minders to register concerns.
However, Helen's parents,
Andrew Sangar and Susan Alston, last night said the report
did not go far enough and more had to be done.

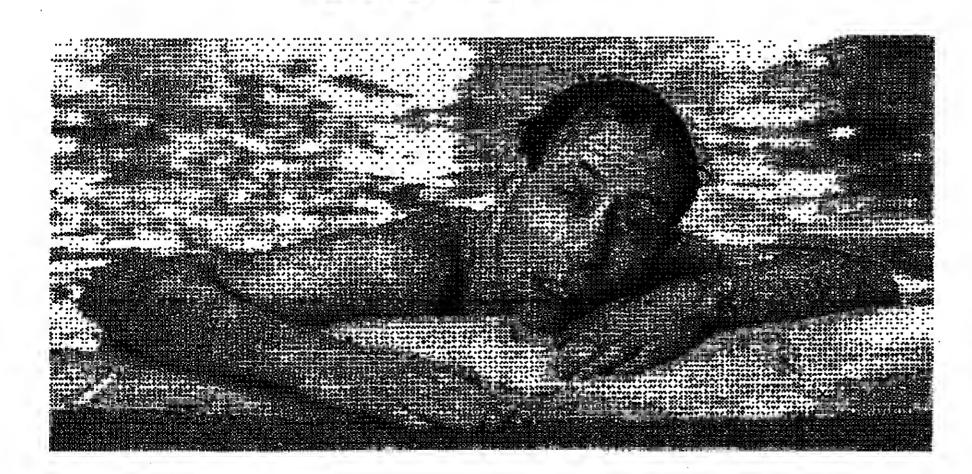
"We believe that further procedural changes are necessary both in Sheffield and across the country if the risk of a similar tragedy occurring is to be significantly reduced," they said in

Easter traffic: Errors that will land millions in weekend jams



Slow start: The Stena HSS, the world's biggest high-speed ferry, due to enter service last month across the Irish

Congratulations on swimming fifty thousand miles.



Believe it or not, that's how far you went to raise money for the 10th Annual BT Swimathon. At nearly twice round the world, it's

hardly surprising if you're feeling somewhat drained. But with the £1.5 million

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CBI anger at Tory transport policy failure

Business people are deeply "frustrated" and "angry" at the Government's failure to produce a transport policy, Adair CBI said yesterday.

Speaking at a lunch with headquarters, he launched a fierce attack on the Governsponse to the transport debate Turner said: "There is deep frustration among business peopolicy. Business confidence in the Government's resolve to develop a competitive and susainable transport network in the

UK is at a low ebb." The sharpness of the attack will surprise ministers especially coming from one of its alies but it shows the depth of anger among business leaders over what they see as ministers failure to face "hard choices". Mr Turner said that while it was "all very well" to stimulate a debate on transport, it had started 18 mooths ago and the "past 15 months have been wasted".
"Any further paralysis by analysis will simply oot do."
The Independent revealed

earlier this week that the Government's response to the trans-port debate is likely to be published early next mooth but will eschew any grand solutions" to transport problems. It will also fail to satisfy environmentalists' demand for strict targets to reduce traffic growth.

Mr Turner said it was the Government's business to make hard choices. However, the transport debate had become overlaid with "a desire to reduce public expeoditure for its own sake" which meant that it the Government had avoided developing a transport strategy.

Business leaders are begin ning to accept that the infrastructure cannot be expected to accommodate all of this growth and therefore are looking at ways of breaking this link. They are sensitive to criticisms that goods are being transported all round the country when they could be sourced more locally but currectly, despite annual price rises above the rate of inflation, fuel remains cheaper in real terms than in the oil

crisis of the 1970s. The CBI has moved away from its past emphasis on purely road-based solutions to the transport crisis in favour of encouraging public transport and other more environmentally friendly modes such as walking and cycling. Robert Napier. chief executive of Redland, the building supplies group, and chairman of the CBI's transport committee, said: "We accept that we can't build eight-lane motorways in England's green and pleasant valleys. But it may be necessary to build the motorways underneath them sometimes, even if this costs

more." The CBI is also angered that the Government's response to the transport debate will ignore calls for a reform of the road taxation system. Mr Turner accepted that road pricing was not popular but said that a distinctioo should be made between road charging - for the cost of wear and tear - and taxation.

Mr Napier said that the CBI was currently working on an estimate of how much oeeded to be spent annually oo transport infrastructure in order to keep Britain moving: "We feel that around £9bn per year oeeds to be spent oo transport invest-meot, about £2bo more than at present.

He added: "This weekeod's Bank Holiday traffic will high-light once again the historic fail-ure of UK transport policy."

Food sent on road odyssey

ROS WYNNE-JONES

The distance travelled by foods in heavy lorries around Britain has increased by just over half in the last 15 years, according to the campaign group Sus-tainable Agriculture, Food and Environment Alliance.

While industry chiefs argue that Britain needs better and more roads to maximise the efficiency of freight transport, SAFE want to see supermarket chains sourcing their products locally to cut down the number of "food miles" travelled by heavy goods vehicles. The umbrella group's research high-lights the following cases:

Asparagus: At a supermarket in the Vale of Evesham, Hereford and Worcester, Britain's main asparagus-growing region, asparagus had beeo imported 2,000 miles from Spain at the height of the season.

■Apples: The United Kingdom is the second largest importer in apples in the world, even though apples are available in the country most of the year round. Apples are imported 14,000 miles from New Zealand, 3,300 miles from the United States and 5,200 miles from South Africa. The UK is only 35 per cent self-sufficient

in apples, while in France 90 per cent of apples sold are French KitKat: A British supermarket chain was found to buy its KitKat bars in Fraoce and road freight them to the UK, while a French supermarket chain bought Mars Bars from Slough Berkshire, although they were also produced in France. Transport costs were lower than the difference in price of the products between the two countries.

Milk: Fresh milk from a dairy near the south coast of England was found being sold

in the oorth of Scotland. Tomatoes: A Lancaster firm collected tomatoes from Pilling. Lancashire, and transported them to Lancaster. They were then road-freighted to Blackpool for distribution to Dewhurst the butchers at their Yorkshire depot. From there they went by road to all Dewhurst shops, in-

cluding Lancaster. Fruit and salads: A company operating a distributing centre in Spalding, Lincolnshire, was importing bananas through Southampton, which were then sent to Boiton, Lancashire, where they were ripened. From there they were taken to Bridgwater, Somerset, to go to retail distribution

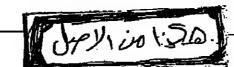
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BOOK TO LAND TO THE EAST



Packers the new store war Weapon

The supermarket giant Tesco is not just a matter of training yesterday announced that it manuals, it is something customers experience in our stores to provide special teams of and either you like it or you "customer assistants" to offer extra help in its 548 stores don't. she added. Sainsbury said across the country.

The scheme was launched on one of the busiest days of the year for supermarkets, as Tesco's chairman, Sir Ian MacLaurin, led more than 1,000 office staff who had volunteered to spend a day helping customers.

The office workers were temporarily joining the new teams of customer assistants, identifiable by hlue waistcoats, who have had been trained "to use their initiative to help out customers at every stage of their shopping trips".

A Tesco spokeswoman said: The 4,500 are all new jobs. It follows a trial in nine stores. The scheme is costing £20m this year, but prices will not go up to pay for it because it is part of our hudget.

"The customer assistants will unload trolleys, pack hags, find forgotten items or replace damaged goods, take note of any questions or ideas, and act as a personal point-of-contact for

Sir Ian said that be was helping shoppers at the company's store at Brent Cross, north-west London, and that his board colleagues were at other stores - but, unlike the customer assistants, they were there for one

Meanwhile, rival supermarkets yesterday responded to Tesco's move by revealing their commitment to new jobs.

Asda said that it had created 5,000 new jobs and increased the speed of its check-out operation by 15 per cent in the past

Service is not something to be advertised," said Gwyn Burr, Or takeovers of life assi Asda's marketing director. "It companies by retailers."

tomers experience in our stores

Sainsbury said that its in-crease in the number of staff hours in-store was the equivalent of more than 5,000 extra staff. And Safeway responded to Tesco's johs initiative by claiming that it was "already

"Service is something Safeway staff have heen giving for years," Roger Ramsden, director of brand marketing, said. Safeway, which has 370 stores

throughout the United Kingdom, launched its customer reward card in November 1993 to encourage shoppers' loyalty. ■ Shoppers could soon be able

to pick up a Tessa at Tesco or an investment savings scheme at Safeway as the high-street chains compete to hecome to become Britain's first financial supermarket, according to a new report out yesterday.

The groups are poised to cash in on existing successful customer loyalty promotions by extending them into the financial products field. And they could benefit from the reluctance of consumers to buy insurance products from their bank or building society, according to the market researchers Mintel. Its survey found that fewer than one in three adults would buy an insurance product from their bank or building society and that the majority preferred to shop around,

The report says a number of large retail outlets have already moved into financial services over the last 10 years. It cites Marks & Spencer and Virgin as prime examples of retailers who have exploited the opportunities open to them and says that the next step may be tie-ups or takeovers of life assurance-

First Internet channel to come with own soap

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

The world's first Internet channel, boasting a schedule of programmes similar to those on television, is to be launched in Britain next month.

The project is being pio-neered by the Cyberia Cafe chain, the London-hased computer cafe group that serves coffee, on-line access and technical help to anyone who wants to surf the Net.

Channel Cyberia, as it is called, is not unlike Channel 4 in that it offers a host channel filled by "programmes" made by independent producers. It will also mirror conventional channels in that it plans to publish programme listings and even use ITN to provide news.

Also on offer will be a financial news service, a sports slot, film reviews, and a motoring feature by Steve Mc-Fadden - who plays the garage owner Phil Mitchell in East-

It will even launch with a visual soap opera called Outsiders, with every scene available from the point of view of each character. With little dialogue, it will be text-based but with cartoon and photography elements

- like reading a novel. Outsiders will have two episodes a week with a weekend omnibus.

Similarly to ITV and Channel 4, the Internet channel staffed by eight people will offer advertisements - hut these will be played only on request. When the advertisement's logo is clicked it will play.

Keith Teare, controller of Channel Cyberia, said the con-cept would introduce the notion of time to the Internet because the "programmes" would go out at set times, just as on television.

However, in other ways the new channel would be more like a magazine at first because it would be restricted to text, photography and graphics with minimal audio-visual content. Cyberia expects to be able to deliver CD-Rom quality mate-

rial on-line within months and improve on sound and moving pictures by the end of the year. The channel began a preview

service this week on http://channel.cyheriacafe.net/. It will launch on 22 May at the Internet World Conference in London and hopes to attract over 2 million viewers within three years. It expects to be in profit a month rising to £2m next year.

Inquiry into army meningitis deaths

Health experts are investigating establish whether the strains in possible links between the deaths of two babies from

meningitis at an army garrison. An 11-week-old boy died from meningococcal septi-caemia at the Duchess of Kent Military Hospital in Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, on

Monday. Jessica Murdoch, 16 months. died from the same infection in February

Both fathers are believed to be soldiers in the Royal Irish Regiment but they do not know each other

the two cases are similar and if the deaths are linked. Dr Phil Kirby, communicable

disease consultant for North Yorkshire Health Authority. said: "It is unbelievably tragic for these two families.

"Almost all cases of meningo coccal infection are single and isolated, and spread from person to person is rare, even in families or in those having close contact with someone with the

National and regional menin gitis specialists have been briefed about the deaths



Catholic women say male ritual does not wash

er church ceremony which washes the feet of men only.

Supporters of the Catholic Women's Network accused leading Roman Catholic clergy in Wales of being sexist. The demonstration was

mounted at St David's Cathedral, Cardiff, shortly before Archhishop Aloysius Ward washed the feet of 12 men in the congregation in the tradition of the Last Supper when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.

Surprised worshippers arrived for the service to find a large banner outside the catheproclaiming

Women's Feet Too". As the Archbishop continued with his service inside, 30 women held their own ritual outside on the pavement, producing a wooden chair, a bowl and jug of water. Earlier they

Women singing hymns yester-day protested outside an East-artiving for the service. Several priests avoided the protest by using a side entrance.

Sheila McBride, of South Shields, who travelled to Wales for the pavement service, said most Catholic diocese were more enlightened and chose to include women members in the ceremony. "I think it is terrible to exclude women like this and it completely changes the meaning. Washing of feet is supposed to be a symbol of service to oth-

ers, love and unity." Ann Farr, spokeswoman for the Network, was among those who had her feet washed out-side the cathedral. "To exclude women turns the whole Maundy Thursday tradition into a symbol of exclusion and division," she said.

Father John Lloyd denied the service ignored the role of The diocese is simply following Vatican instructions

; to

lo remain Europe's financial heart. we need a little surgeru.

Going to work on the Tube

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Operation Hard Hat is a massive programme of essential engineering work

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Housing revival: Lowest interest rates for 30 years and belief that costs have bottomed out have rebuilt market confidence

Estate agents toast 'feel-better factor'

REBECCA FOWLER and ROB CRANE

They are calling it the "feeling better factor". As estate agents across Britain took on extra staff this weekend in anticipation of an Easter influx; they declared it was finally spring-time for the bousing market.

The first quarter of 1996 has seen an average 1.2 per cent rise in house prices and an increase in sales, against the towest interest rate in 30 years. The frontrunners in the recovery are south-east England, the West Midlands and London.

A study by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) reveals that two-thirds of English and Welsh estate agents have had a 10 per cent increase in viewing and valuation requests this year. They are struggling to find enough properties for sale to supply the renewed demand.

In Manchester this weekend, estate agents were confident of further signs of life. "The months from Easter are when you traditionally expect to fill the 'sales pending drawers," said Jonathan Dines, an agent

He added: "The weather is good, there are a lot more viewings, a lot more offers and, terwards and run a marathon.

we'd hope, a lot more sales. This is the turning-point weekend. when people put the kids in the hack of the car, drive to the areas they are interested in, note down the numbers on the For

Sale boards, and visit agents." The intense competition between lending institutions. aimed most intensely at firsttime havers, combined with the record low interest rates, have finally started to eclipse the financial insecurities of buyers. according to the industry.

Harvey Williams, national housing spokesman for the RICS, said: "From April we are secing all the financial benefits coming out of the sausage mill at last. We are seeing tax savings coming into the purchasers' pockets, on top of the ferocious competition to lend them monev. The first thing many people will do is consider the roof over their head."

Despite the optimism, agents are anxious to stress that the market is still fragile. In Hythe, Southampton, Paul Dettner, a partner in an independent agency, described it as a "convalescence period".

Mr Dettner said: "Things are getting hetter, but if someone has a major operation you don't expect them to get up afPeople assume someone is going to flick a switch and we will be back to a normal market, but it takes longer than that."

convinced the confidence from Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is not unfounded. While interest rates have been cut three times in the last five months, and taxation dropped this month, consumer confidence

has been building. Ian Shepherdson, UK economist for HSBC Markets, said: "It's blindingly obvious the market is recovering, from higher mortgage applications, more sales and a move in prices. The question now is how long it

He added: "We have seen a rebound from1995; what we haven't seen yet is real progress. Our view is we will, but it's not a boom hecause the consumer balance sheet has too much debt

"There simply isn't the scope to push house prices up by much more than five per cent. But what we'll have is a deeper market that will be stronger."

Among the areas already

seeing the greatest signs of renewal is Croydon. Boh Hay, a partner in Streets Ahead, said the firm was struggling to satisfy the demands of a pent-up

25 per cent on the same quarter last vear.

Mr Hay said: "We are seeing However, economists are both first-time buyers and huyers who want to move up a level from a two-bedroom house. That's where the shortage is, inthe three- and four-bedroom houses for the mid-£100,000s.

"A lot of people who want to move up a level don't have anything to go and see." It is a similar picture in Scot-

land. Homeowners in Aberdeen are gradually building up the confidence to put their properties on the market, having seen prices drop to record lows, and an invigorated interest from buyers.

Ken Anderson, director of Anderson Pitt and Co, said: "Flats are selling very healthily, but the market is short of threebedroom traditional homes. I'd like to see more of those coming up for sale."

already considering reviewing their forecasts for 1996 in the light of the renewed demand. The Halifax, the largest building society, has predicated an overall rise of 2 per cent

in house prices for 1996, but said if the current recovery is sus-

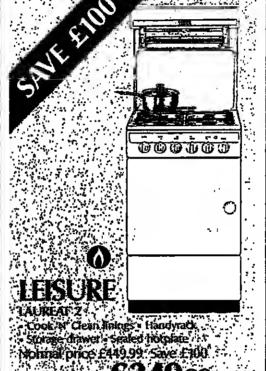


Home sweet home: Oliver Gill outside the flat in Croydon which he is considering buying Photograph: Glynn Griffiths



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Prices are not going to drop'

Rebecca Fowler reports on the two sides it takes to clinch a property deal

Oliver Gill is an estate agent's dream; be is a first-time huyer, with £20,000 of savings in the bank, and his eye on three-bedroom flats in Croydon. which is among the areas that have seen the greatest recovery in the market.

But Mr Gill, a salesman of bairdressing products, bas bided bis time until this year. He watched prices continue to drop alongside interest rates, which have fallen to record levels since November, and be has witnessed the lending institutions

clamouring for custom. "I've been one of the greedy ones. Eve watched everything go down and down. I thought I'd recession. But under the current sit on what I had, a befty deposit, and pick my moment.
Now there are these magnificent mortgage deals where you can play them off against each other, and it's clear the prices are not going to drop any fur-ther, if anything they re perking

THE BUYER-

beginning of the year, Mr Gill said the flats he saw were disappointing. But in recent weeks he says the quality in bis price range £50,000, has improved significantly and he is currently considering putting an offer on a flat be saw this week.

He said: "To begin with I was going to start at the bottom with a £30,000 flat, but it's all dross. and by going up one level you get a lot more for your money."

Like many first-time buyers. Mr Gill, who has rented since he was 16, was concerned about financial security during the mortgage deals, be estimates he will be paying as little as £200 a month.

Mr Gill said: "Everyone always thinks about security, but even in the worst-case scenario. with the mortgage deals as good as they are. I could still When he started looking confidence is definitely coming afford to live there. People's

'It just felt like time was right'

For eight years Trisha Templeton, 48, a personnel officer, and her husband dreamed of moving from Croydon to a home closer to his work. But only this year did they feel confident enough to put their house on the market.

Although the Templetons bought their three-bedroom house a decade ago, just before the 1980s boom that left an army of homeowners floundering in negative equity, they watched the market plummet to desperate levels and kept postponing the move. Mrs Templeton said: "We'd

been thinking about it for years, hut my hushand is a selfemployed management consultant, and for one reason or another we thought we should wait, then we decided we couldn't wait forever."

They put their £81,000 house on the market at the beginning of the year and within three days they had a huyer. But the cou-ple who put an offer in were as another. We're glad to be trapped in negative equity and moving at last. It just felt like then had the house they were the time was right.

selling down-valued again, in a

final legacy of the great slump. However, a second buyer came forward within weeks. "It was relatively easy, although there was that hitch, and the people we are now selling to are first-time buyers, so we're hoping there isn't going to he a problem, touch wood," Mrs Templeton said.

The Templetons were moving up a level themselves in the housing market, and had £160,000 to spend in Dulwich in south London. At first they were disappointed to discover it would buy them little more than their existing home in Croydon.

Eventually they found a modera four-bedroom detached house, and extended their mortgage. Mrs Templeton said: They were very competitive. and it was difficult to work out

Ospreys off danger list

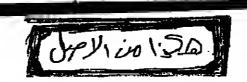
Bird experts predict that more than 100 pairs of ospreys will breed in Scotland this year for watch their comings and goings wiped out by Victorian hunters and egg collectors.

The phenomenal success of the species, which returned to Scotland in 1959, bas now re-An RSPB spokesman, Derek sulted in the Royal Society for Nieman, said: "The reintrothe Protection of Birds taking duction of the ospreys has been it off the endangered list. In Scotland last year 99 pairs built nests and reared 140 young

pair of all were settling in at the longer endangered."

the first time since they were live on television. For several years, they bave nested in the RSPB's Boat of Garten nature reserve near Aviernore, where a

an astormding success. They are now a well established part of Scotland's wildlife and would be Yesterday the most famous better described as rare, but no

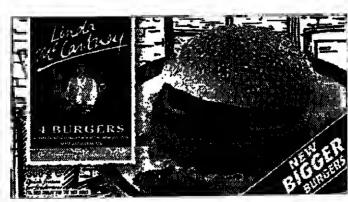


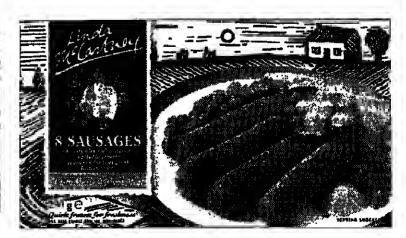
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Grammar schools: Union condemns 'divisive' plan

Teachers vote to fight greater pupil selection

FRAN ABRAMS

Education Correspondent

na The union which represents for more grammar school teachers than any other is to campaign the against increased selection in to schools.

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers, meeting in Torquay, Devon, heard yesterpr forquay, Devon, neard yester-di day that plans for a grammar ha school in every town would F/ also create secondary moderns lif, where standards would be low.

The union, which has 800 re members in the country's 160 w. grammar schools and 16.000 in independent schools, voted overwhelmingly to condemn government moves to increase

The Prime Minister has announced that comprehensives will be allowed to select up to 15 per cent of their pupils, and to White Paper in June will set out a range of options including the creation of new grammar schools by private companies working together with parents.

An emergency resolution to the union's annual conference called for the existing system to he maintained. Proposing the motion. Martin Kamm from John Taylor High School in Staffordshire, said selection

would mean lower ability intakes in comprehensives: "It doesn't matter what you call them, they are secondary modem schools as far as parents and children are concerned."

Having started his own career in a secondary modern, he had seen the effects the 11-plus had

Peter Smith: Increasing selection is 'divisive'

had on pupils. "The brighter ones, when they came in, had a chip on their shoulders - they had failed. That's how they and

their parents saw it." he said. But Stephen Woodley, from the independent King's School in Canterbury, Kent, supported the Government's plans.

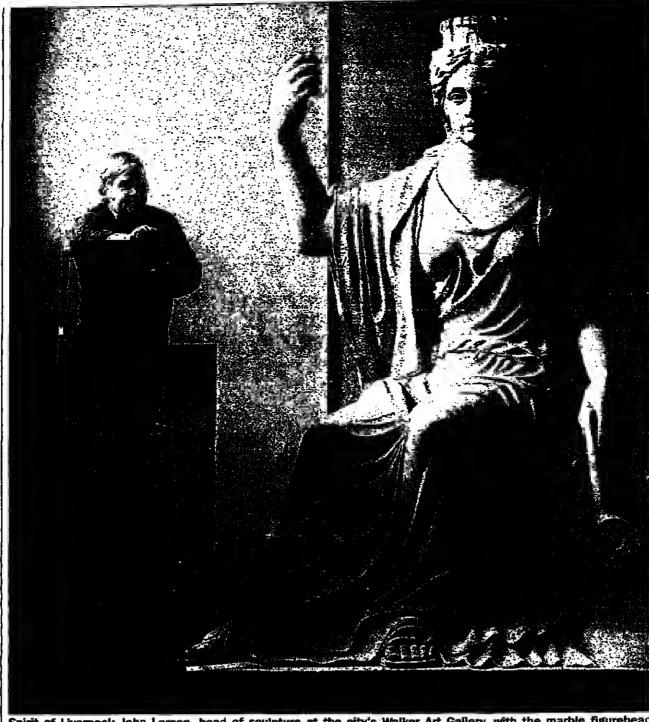
ply to be against selection at all costs is our policy," he said. "I have never thought that secondary modern schools can't work. They can work provided they have sufficient resources

and sufficient support."
Peter Smith, the ATL's general secretary, said the union would now campaign against the move. "It is divisive. The real agenda is to improve the schools we have got for all the children who go to them." he said.

There is a grave danger that if you create grammar schools what you will do is to produce secondary schools at best, sink schools at worst."

A Harris poll carried out for the association last month showed that selection was low on the public's list of priorities, he added. Nine out of ten people polled wanted better discipline, more cash for schools and more books and equipment. Fewer than half wanted more selection to raise standards. placing it tenth in rank order. Mr Smith said eight out of ten

branch secretaries in the association felt that the physical condition of schools in their areas was having an adverse effect on pupils' education. Nine out of ten said it had led to concerns "We should not look as if sim- about health and safety.



Spirit of Liverpool: John Larson, head of sculpture at the city's Walker Art Gallery, with the marble figurehead statue that is due to be replaced on the building this summer after being recut in China Photograph: Mercury Press

Sacked workers get £6m payout

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

More than 2,000 shipyard workers who were thrown out of work without redundancy pay are to share nearly £6m in compensation.

The former employees of Swan Hunter, on Tyneside, will each receive between £450 and £15,000 - depending on length of service - as part of an outof-court settlement with the receivers, Price Waterhouse.

The City firm originally argued that as receivers they were not liable to pay sums due nder agreements with the previous management.

However, after prolonged negotiations involving the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, Price Waterhouse agreed a package for the workers who were made redundant over a two-year period.

Tommy Brennan, of the GMB general union, said: "This is a sweet victory, but all we have won is what the workers would have been entitled to if they had been made redundant by the employers rather than the receivers. It has been a long haul caused by the total neglect of

workers' rights." Stefan Cross, of Thompsons, solicitors acting for the unions, said the workers would have to accept the deal by the end of April, "Negotiations have been tough but fair and we are very pleased with the settlement."

The deal was struck in the wake of a House of Lords ruling in 1994 which left receivers and administrators liable to settle claims from workers they had laid off.

Gordon Horsfield, joint receiver, said the level of the settlement realised the worst fears of insolvency practitioners, prompted by the Lords' ruling. The Swan deal covers, severance pay, wages in lieu of notice and payment for a period when workers were laid off during the receivership.

"This settlement almost certainly removes any prospect of dividends being paid to prefer-ential and unsecured creditors." He said the settlement would have to be accepted by 95 per cent of the redundant workers to become operational.

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Threat to honey pots of Kent

The Garden of England is in the grip of a bee disease which could send prices of honey, fruit and vegetables soaring.

The varroa mite - which infects bee larvae so generations become increasingly weakened and deformed - is threatening honey and market-garden businesses and beekeepers are calling on the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to provide a compensation payout similar to that offered where cartle are affected by bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

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keeper of Canterbury, warns that the mite is spreading rapidly. "There is a very good friend of mine who normally keeps 400 hives. Because of the varroa mite that been reduced to just 20. Elsewhere, others I know are

seeing the number of hives reduced by 80 per cent," he said. The mite arrived in Britain four years ago, when it was first detected in Devon. It had been known on the Continent for years, but had been controlled. there are fewer bees to pollinate orchards and vegetable gardens."

Tony Fisher, an amateur bee-eeper of Canterbury, warns spokesman for the Ashford Beekeeping Association said: "A lot of our members are being wiped out because of this and it is proving a problem to the commercial side as well.

I think it is inevitable that prices will rise, if not this summer then next year. The problem is that not only honey will be affected — there is a knock-on effect which will see fruit and vegetables touched by it too ...

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PIT - FEIDAY : Applicate

couple on spy claims

WILL BENNETT Britain yesterday demanded the release of a couple arrested on suspicion of spying in Eritrea more than two weeks ago while on a marathon round the world yacht trip.

The Foreign Office also asked for an immediate explanation for the continuing de-tention of Peter and Shirley Billing, who were seized by armed men on board their yacht on 19 March. They left Britain to travel 13 years ago.

Mr Billing, 64, and his wife, 61, were originally thought to have heen arrested because they anchored in a restricted area off the Hanish Islands in the Red Sea, which are the subject of a territorial dispute hetween Eritrea and Yemen.

But yesterday Rod Hicks,

the British consul in Asmara, the Eritrean capital, said that their 35ft ketch Clypeus had heen anchored within Eritrean territorial waters and well away from the islands. "We have not been told why they are being held," Dr Hicks said. "They are being detained by the authoriues in a hotel, where they are

being well treated." Mrs Billing said yesterday: "We have got stronger and more independent as time bas gone on. If I had been questioned hard hefore I would probably have cried but I suppose they were just doing their joh. They seemed to think we are spies, which is ridiculous.

"The whole thing is going on a hit and we are still apprehensive because we just don't know which way they are like-

said: "We have protested to the Eritreans and we are pressing for a full explanation and carly action. We want to see Mr and Mrs Billing released and

returned to their vessel."

Eritrea holds British

He added that the British emhassy in neighbouring Ethiopia, which oversees the United Kingdom's interests in Eritrea. had also been instructed "to register our deep concern over the Billings and demand a full ex-planation".

Mr Habtom Gehremiehael, the Eritrean Consul-General in London, was not available for comment yesterday.

Although no formal expla-nation of the Billings arrest has been forthcoming it is believed that Eritrea, which fought a long war to win independence from Ethiopia, is still nervous about

Billings and a French couple arrested in similar circumstances were taken to an army cump and kept under armed guard in a mice-infested hut for three days. They were then flown to Asmara for questioning and it was not until Sunday that they were allowed to see Dr Hicks.

Mr Billing, an electronics engineer, and his wife sold their home in Wokingham. Berkshire, and left England in 1983 to travel round the world by yacht. They are experienced navigators who took advice from the crews of other yachts about where they could anehor off Eritrea.

Their voyage has taken them to the Caribbean, the Galapagos Islands off Ecuador, the South Pacific, South-East Asia,



Troubled waters: Peter and Shirtey Billing pictured on their yacht in America earlier in their voyage

BT's managers vote to disrupt phones over pay

BARRIE CLEMENT

British Telecom customers face £18,000 to £36,000 pay range delays and disruption after thousands of managers voted by four to one to take industrial ac- in other companies. tion in protest at a pay offer worth 6 per cent.

Members of the Society of Telecom Executives decided by 6,782 to 1,683 to disrupt services, arguing that individual increases would depend largely on a "discredited" performance pay system.
It is understood that follow-

ing the overwhelming mandate for industrial action short of strikes, the union may decided to ban overtime which frequently makes up about 20 per cent of managers' hours. Other options could include a work to rule and a "withdrawal of goodwill". Repair of telephone faults could be among the serunion sources.

The pay rise, which BT in-tends to "impose" on its employees, is made up of two elements. An average 4 per cent increase will be paid in the form of a "consolidated" rise and a further 2 per cent as oneoff lump sum payments of

A spokeswoman for BT said ing lower paid middle managers be disrupted.

in the distribution of performance pay. The company felt that those at the top of the were already well remunerated compared with comparable jobs

Simon Petch, general secretary of the union, said the offer was shrouded in secrecy because no one knew how much each individual would receive or how the decision would be made. He said some might get nothing, adding: "Many simply do not trust the company to treat them fairly and resent a system which is so shrouded in secrecy.

Some outstanding performers have seen their pay artifi-cially held down because they were deemed to be earning enough already, Mr Petch said. Most managers received no pay rise in 1994 and two-thirds of them got less than the infla-

Both sides acknowledged that talks were prohable next week in an attempt to avoid dis-

BT said the package was fair and registered its disappointment with the vote by members of the union who made up 13,500 out of the 20,000-strong layer of middle management. The company's spokeswoman the company would be favour- said it did not expect services to

Family acts over death in custody

JASON BENNETTO

Crime Correspondent

The family of a man who died after being in police custody are to launch an appeal to pay for a private prosecution against two officers who were involved in a struggle with the dead The move follows an an-

nouncement by the Crown Prosecution Service that no police officers involved in the incident should be prosecuted because of insufficient evidence.

Brian Douglas, 33, a music promoter, died after his arrest last May in south-west London. He suffered a fractured skull, which his family claimed was caused by the use of the new American-style hatons.

His brother Donald, 40, a charity director, said yesterday that he and other members of the family were seeing lawyers to plan a private criminal prosecution, and that it would cost about £70,000.

We have no choice but to sort of money," he said. "In addition, we hope to have a QC canister were produced."

at the inquest which should be held soon, and there is no legal

aid for us."

Mr Douglas, assistant divi-sional director of Save the Children fund, said he did not pin much faith on all the facts being aired at the resumed inquest, which was opened and adjourned to allow the CPS to consider prosecuting.

He said that the advice the family had received from QCs suggested that a private prosecution could be launched. His hrother died in St

Thomas's hospital, five days after heing arrested in Clapham, south-west London. He was involved in a strug-

gle with two police officers and was taken to Vauxhall police station on suspicion of being under the influence of drugs and drink. A post-mortem examination found that he had a fractured skull but the cause of death will not be made public until the inquest into his death.

After the death, Scotland Yard said: "Two police officers launch an appeal to raise that took action to ensure their own

Abuse inquiry suicide

The owner of a care home who killed himself hours before he was to be charged with abusing mentally handicapped young people, left a note placing his faith in God and the life interlife, an inquest at Windsor.

Berkshire, was told yesterday. Gordon Rowe, 61, was found slumped in a car on a road known as Devil's Highway. A post-mortem examination revealed that he died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

A 19-month investigation into allegations of sexual and physical ahuse at his Longcare homes at Stoke Green House and Stoke Place Mansion House, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, was about to con-clude. A police source said Mr Rowe would have been charged.

The East Berkshire coroner. Robert Wilson, who heard that he left a seven-page letter to his two sons and second wife. recorded a verdict of suicide.

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Women who quit smoking cut cervical cancer

LIZ HUNT

Women who quit smoking can reverse abnormal cell changes in the cervix, according to new research which strengthens the ink between smnking and cervical cancer.

Scientists say that stopping smoking may boost the woman's immune system and enable it to deal with abnormal cells, preventing any further adverse changes. Smoking is thought to weaken the immune response in the cervix.

Dr Anne Szarewski, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund which carried out the study, said: The results suggest that it is well worth women trying to stop smoking if their smear test shows mild abnormality. They might even be able to avoid baving treatment at a later datc." A group of 82 women smok-

enteen stopped completely and eleven cut down by more than three-quarters. The quitters and the non-quitters were similar in age, contraceptive use, menstrual cycles and sexual babits.

After six months, more than 80 per cent of those who had quit or reduced their smoking by at least 75 per cent showed a reduction in the size of the abnormal-looking area, compared with less than 20 per cent of those who continued to smoke. The more the women reduced their smoking the greater was the reduction in the size of the lesion on the cervix," the ICRF says.

Previous studies have suggested a strong link between smoking and cervical cancer, Dr Szarewski said. "However, it has not been altogether clear wbether this is due to smoking per se or something else to do with lifestyle. This study is

on the cervix agreed to try to give unique in trying to find out up smoking for six months. Sevwhether stopping smoking causes abnormal-looking areas on the cervix to get smaller."

There is also evidence that

smoking can weaken the cervix's immune response against viruses - a virus is implicated in cervical cancer - bacteria and other toxins.

"Smoking cessation may be allowing the immune system to recover, leading to a reduction in size of mild cervical lesions, Dr Szarewski added. "Our study adds to the evidence supporting a direct link between smoking and cervical disease."

In their report, published in tomorrow's issue of the Lancet, the ICRF scientists point ont that quitting or cutting down on smoking could affect only those lesions that are unlikely to become cancerous. However, they conclude that "women with early cervical abnormalities may benefit from smoking cessation".



Transfer market: The age-old tradition of collecting and swapping football stickers being carried on by two young boys at Wembley stadium yesterday at a swap-shop for stickers

Photograph: Geraint Lewis boys at Wembley stadium yesterday at a swap-shop for stickers

Tycoon fights to keep 'son' in UK

wilitia hear

The millionaire businessman Richard Morley confirmed yes-terday that he is to fight a lastditch court battle to prevent the deportation of the Nepalese

teenager he calls his son. After 19-year-old Jayaram Khadka reported to Coleford police station in Gloocestershire yesterday, Mr Morley announced that appeal papers would be lodged next Wednesday for a judicial review.

He is to contest a deportation order confirmed last week by the Home Secretary which says Mr Khadka is an illegal immigrant. The civil rights lawyer Rudy Narayan will be leading a defence team.

Mr Morley, who lives at Clearwell Castle in the Forest of Dean, said the appeal would be on the grounds that the Home Secretary had failed to examine the case properly.

He made a promise to Mr Khadka's late father - who helped to save his life after a climbing accident - that be would look after his son if anything bappened to him. And he now says he will move to Nepal if Mr Khadka is deported.



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Lloyd's loses race-bias case over job cuts

The Lloyd's insurance giant was branded as racist yesterday when two former staff members who were isolated in a room because they were Asian, and tben made redundant, were awarded about £30,000 each at an industrial tribunal.

Baldev Sahota and Latif Khan were segregated from 28 white colleagues in their department and given little work to do, the tribunal was told.

The two highly-qualified risk assessors, who earned £33,000 year, suffered six months of segregation at Lloyd's Register of Shipping before they were , finally fold to go.

The tribunal's chairman, David Boothe, said: "So far as race discrimination was concerned, it was clear that Lloyd's vas the discriminator. The detriment was dismissal.

Whilst Lloyd's has not admitted it was a racial decision, it was perfectly clear to anyone looking at it that it was."

Mr Sahota, 52, who was born in India, and his colleague at the world's largest marine insurer, Mr Khan, 50, originally from Pakistan, told bow the whitedominated company continually victimised them at the office in Croydon, south-east London.

Mr Sahota said: "I was made to sit in a corner of the office and not given any work. They made it clear they did not want me. New recruits would come in and be sat at my desk and soon afterwards they would be given work. It was humiliating and degrading.

The two men had worked for Lloyd's Register for four years but had worked at the Croydon office six months when they were sacked in April 1994. The tribunal in Croydon

racial discrimination and unfair dismissal at an earlier hearing in January. After the award yesterday Mr Sahota, of Camberley, Surrey,

upheld the men's claims for

said be was delighted that justice had been done. He said: "I am glad that it is

all finally over, it has been a very difficult two years. I will now concentrate on getting on with the rest of my life."

Mr Sahota told the bearing to decide compensation that he and Mr Khan were "stunned" by the loss of their jobs. "I asked myself why was this happening to us. We were the only two people who were isolated in that

"After I was sacked I lost all my confidence and dignity, Being made redundant in such a discriminatory way set me back so much, I could not even go out in the street."

Mr Khan, of Wimbledon, south-west London, added: "We were forced to sit in a corner. The isolation was misery. When you are confined to yourself, you spend a lot of time just thinking about yourself.

We were segregated to ooc corner of the building and we were not given any work. If in this civilised world, somebody segregates you due to your colour or race, then I am sure it is a great shame.

Lloyd's moved the men, who certify the safety of off-shore oil rigs for insurance, back to its Croydon office in October 1993. after the off-shore work died down. Six months later they were sacked. But in a memo dated 11 Oc-

tober 1993, the manager of the department made clear his intention to sack them. In the office there were 28 white workers and only four other con-whites. Mr Boothe said in his ruling-

"Following the end of their secondment, they were returned to the main [Croydon] office and both were left in an isolated part of the building.

"Management said that this

was because they were awaiting reassignment to other tasks. The applicants claim that no white employee was treated in that way, an assertion we accept.
"They further claimed they

were being isolated in order to prove that they were redundant. "In the memo dated the 11 October 1993, the manager has made up his mind they were redundant, but the applicants were not told about this until March 1994.1

The exact compensation figure was duc to be released

DAILY POEM

I am the Great Sun

From a Normandy crucifix of 1632 By Charles Causley

I am the great sun, but you do not see me,

I am your husband, but you turn away. I am the captive, but you do not free me, I am the captain but you will not obey. I am the truth, but you will not believe me,

I am the city where you will not stay,
I am your wife, your child, but you will leave me,
I am that God to whom you will not pray.

I am your counsel, but you do not hear me. I am the lover whom you will betray, I am the victor, but you do not cheer me, I am the holy dove whom you will slav

I am your life, but if you will not name me, Seal up your soul with tears, and never blame me.

Charles Causley was born and has lived, apart from six years in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, in Launceston, Cornwall. In 1990 hc was awarded the Ingersol/TS Eliot Award, given to authors "of abiding importance whose work affirms the moral principles of western civilisation". This poem PERMY APRIL

Militias bring terror to heart of Burundi

DAVID ORR

Smoke was still rising from the embers of e roadside shop and from the hurned-out cars in the hospital yard. In a ward lay two wounded men, one of them motionless and bloody on the

The grim-faced hospital doctor led the way to the morgue. Inside, the bodies of four men had been placed on stretchers. One had a hullet wound on his temple. Lying on the floor of a neighbouring room were the bodies of a family of eight. The arms of a haby and a child were intertwined with a woman. They had been shot and slashed to death with machetes.

"The man with the hullet through his head is our anaesthetist", said Dr Hilaire Nin-teretse. "When the rebels came they went to his home, asked his wife to leave, then executed him. We're waiting for more hodies to arrive. I heard one or two more families were also mas-

The attack on Makamha, a town in southern Burundi, came at dawn on Wednesday. It was hewildered children.

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and number

among the populace - by one of the Hutu militias which have terrorised the region sioce the middle of last month.

In addition to attacking the hospital and looting the pharmacy, the guerrillas vandalised the governor's office and municipal huildings. The family in the morgue was from the minority Tutsi group, though locals said some of the dead were Hutus. Why Makamba's garrison had not fought back is unelear. Perhaps they were afraid. It was rumoured the rebels had been heard singing in the hills

hefore swooping on the town. 'After the attack they went off into the mountains," said the governor, Jean-Baptiste Gahim-hari, pointing at the hills to the east. "My position is very diffi-cult. The politicians come down here talking of pacification and all sorts of things. But when there's an attack they're

nowhere to be seen." The governor looked helplessly at the vast crowd which had gathered at the crossroads. There were about 1,500 men in silent groups and women with

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road. The townspeople stared back at the governor, waiting for him to tell them what to do. Most had suitcases or hastily packed huodles of clothes. Some carried mattresses.

This week's raid on Makamha is part of a series of attacks launched by the so called bandes armées, Hutu rehels, in southern Burundi over recent weeks. The incidents mark a significant escaletion of the insurgency, which hitherto was confined mainly to the northern half of the country. They demonstrate the growing ahility of the Hutu militas to strike at will and push deep into areas regarded as the heartland

of the Tutsi-led army. The capital, Bujumbura, now all but "cleansed" of Hutus, is quiet, although it may only be a matter of time hefore the rebels fire rockets from the surrounding hills. The countryside is more insecure than ever, with many roads off-

limits to all but the army. The hills around Makamba are filled with displaced people. Some have fled the marauding

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An armoured car and trucks Hutu rebels, others the military, full of soldiers raced past on the whose campaign against the insurgents is often indiscriminate in its ferocity.

Two and a half years after the outhreak of fighting triggered by the assassination of Burundi's first elected Hutu president, the conflict shows no signs of resolution. The rebels seem better organised than before. Chief among the Hutu extremist groups is the Force for the Defence of Democracy, led by a former interior minister, Leonard Nyangoma, an exile in Zaire.

The government, a fragile coalition of parties headed by the mostly Hutu Frodehu and the mostly Tutsi Uprona, appears paralysed. There is little common ground between Uprona and Frodchu, diplomats say. Hope that the moderates can hold their own is fading.

There is growing international pressure on the government to talk to the extremist factions. But Uprona is against talking to Nyangoma and other Hutu hardline groups. Many fear Burundi could suffer the same fate as Rwanda, where genocide hroke out two years



Touch down: Jacques Chirac, the first international leader to visit Lebanon since the end of the 1975-90 civil war, inspects a guard of honour at Beirut airport with President Elias Hrawi (left)

Chirac buries a broken past

ROBERT FISK Beirut

The portraits of Ayatollah Khomeini and Imam Mousa Sadr had been removed from the airport road the night hefore. More than 150 soldiers in their new American helmets had surrounded the headquarters of the Lehanese trade unions; there would he no protests for higher wages to mar Jacques Chirac's visit. Only when he walked into the restored parliament building on the old Beirut front line did the President come face to face with

Lehanon's continuing war. As Mr Chirac sat stony faced oo the dais above the 128 assembly members, Nabih Berri, the speaker of the Lehanese parliament, insisted that resistance to foreign occupation could not be described as "terrorism", and compared the

are fighting the Israeli occupation in southern Lehanon to the French resistance, which struggled against the Nazis.

Since many of the Lebanese fighters are members of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah - whose satellite groups kidnapped French civilians during the Lehanese civil war and blew up the French paratroop headquarters in the city in 1983 - Mr Berri's words were unlikely to commend themselves to the Freoch Presideot. But as the first internatioo-

the eod of the 1975-90 civil war, he was all grace and favour. Wheo he responded to Mr Berri, it was to quote Charles de Gaulle, insisting France would help in Lebanon's reconstruction and would support

not find favour with Israelis. And Christian Lebanese groups who very much intend to make who have been complaining sure that Israel, rather than Lehanon, hecomes the new economic powerhouse of the region, always supposing the crumbling peace process can be

other words - although be did

not say so directly - France

wanted Syria's 22,000 troops to

saved. But Mr Chirac had some coded messages for both sides. France wanted respect, he said, for UN Security Couocil resolution 425, which calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon - hut he wanted, too, to see "the Lebanese security forces alone" guard their sovereign territory al leader to visit Lebanon since after an Israeli withdrawal. In

leave, ooce the Israelis have completed their withdrawal.

about Syria's military preseoce will not have objected to Mr Chirac's remarks on the need for an exclusively Lehanese army to control Lebanon.

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His references to resolution 425 received prolonged applause from an audience which included six Hizbollah members of parliament and the Iranian ambassador.

Did he reflect, one wondered, on the fact that an organisation closely associated with that same Hizbollah had killed 58 French soldiers in the 1983 suicide bombing, a slaughter to which he is to unveil a memorial in the grounds of the French embassy tomorrow

But history can he cruel and Mr Chirac's visit is inteoded to symbolise a new future rather than a brokeo past, for both the Lebanese and the French.



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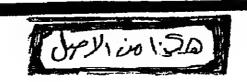
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Balkan air tragedy: Storms complicate efforts to piece together final moments of flight which cost top Clinton aide his life

Delays hampered crash rescue efforts

EMMA DALY Dubrovnik

An investigation began yesterday into the last moments of the US military plane, carrying an American cabinet minister and senior businessmen on a Balkan trade trip, that crashed into a mountain only three kilometres north of Duhrovnik airport, killing all on board. One woman survived the six hours it took medical teams to reach the

site, but died later. Elite Croatian and US units have located 33 bodies - including that of Ron Brown. the US commerce secretary hut there is a dispute over passenger numbers. There were two flight manifests: one listed 33 names, the other 35,

To add to the confusion, two of the bodies recovered are named only on the longer list, and while the Croatian prime minister, Zlatko Matesa, said the search and rescue mission was now over, US officials - who fear two bodies are missing said it would continue.

A team of US aviation officials arrived yesterday to determine why the US military 737 flew off course and hit a steep barren ridge line around 500 metres above sea level. Weather was cited as a possible fac-tor - locals described it as the worst storm in a decade - but that does not explain the plane's course along an inland valley, parallel to the coastline, which the pilot should have followed. Nor is it clear why searchers could not ninpoint the spot at which the plane disappeared from radar screens.

In sombre mood, Peter Gal-

plane was not where it should have been

The last communication with air traffic control at Dubrovnik. Mr Brown's destination, came at around 3pm, when the pilot reported flying over the island of Kolocep, north of the Adriatic city. "That's a normal procedure," said Mr Maiesa.

Shortly after, the plane disappeared from radar screens both in Dubrovnik and aboard military surveillance planes in the area. They [the tower] just informed me that they lost him," said Mr Matesa. He added that searchers had found the cockpit voice recorder,

located in the tail section. The hostile terrain and the atrocious weather - thick fog and torrential downpours hampered the rescue operation. but questions were also raised about delays in identifying and reaching the crush site. Initial aerial searches focused on the coastline, but a villager who saw the plane flying low and heard the crash walked to a neighbouring hamlet, telephoned the airport and alerted police.

Croatian troops reached the site - up a long, twisting dirt track, followed by a 500-metre hike over boulders - at around 7.30pm. But it seems that the first American forces did not arrive until midnight. A Croatian doctor alerted at 7.30pm reached the mountainside at 9pm and scrambled up the site wearing her white coat and medical clogs. But she was too late to save the one survivor, an American woman, who died on her way to hospital.

Since helicopters were unable braith, the US ambassador to to land, US special services

included a surgeon, absciled down on ropes to the crash scene. One team member, Maior Lewis Boone, described the crash site as he saw it after

The first impression was the absolutely inaccessible terrain," he said. "As you got to where the site was it was literally hand over foot-type climbing over houlders."

He saw debris, then one engine; the tail section sheared off at the rear door, perched upright on the slope; and a piece of wing. And some of the

"The remains of the people I saw were in and around the area by the tail section," he said It was very upsetting.

Personal effects such as suitcases were strewn around the

Croatia, said vesterday: "The despatched from Brindisi, who area. Other sources said some bodies were found still strapped in their seats.

Journalists were barred from the scene by Croatian troops. but from the main road we could see the night punctuated by frantic activity, police lights flashing red and hlue on the mountainside, the rumble of Hercules transport planes at the airport and the llicker of helicopter lights circling overhead.

Conditions were so bad that teams of searchers were rotated over 45 minutes or so, Major Boone said. A procession of army trucks brought down groups of bedraggled soldiers wrapped in blankets. "The area was incredibly hard to get to and there wasn't much left of the plane," the major added. "That was pretty shocking.



President Bill Clinton and his cabinet observe a moment of silence at the White House late on Wednesday as hope began to fada that Ron Brown, the US Commerce Secretary, had survived the plane crash in Croatia



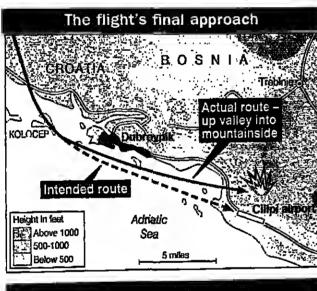
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IN BRIEF

Nazi SS captain on trial for war massacre Rome — A military court yesterday ordered the former SS captain Erich Priehke to stand trial for the Nazi massacre of 335 Italian men and boys during the Second World War. Lawyers at the closed-door preliminary hearing said 82-year-old Priehke showed no emotion as examining judge Giuseppe Massi announced his decision to send him to trial for "multiple homicide aggravated by cruelty". Priehke will he tried for his role in the March 1944 massacre at the Ardeatine Caves outside Rome, Italy's worst wartime atrocity. The trial opens on 8 May.

Sudan seeks to end 13-year civil war

Nairobi — Sudan's government has hegun moves to bring to an end the country's 13-year civil war by contacting southern rebel factions, following the loss of two government garrisons last month, and is seeking a "peaceful solution to the south Sudan problem", said a statement from the Sudanese Embassy in Nairohi. Reuer

Shots fired close to Yeltsin's home Moscow -- Gunmen fired shots near the Moscow home of Russ-

ian President Boris Yeltsin, adding to the capital's security headaches just 10 weeks before a presidential election, police said. Interfax news agency said the shots were fired in the direction of the President's home on Wednesday evening, but according to Itar-Tass agency Yeltsin's house was not the target and the bullets were aimed at a house nearby. Nobody was hurt. Reuter

Arrests over Belgian grenade attack

Brussels — Belgian authorities arrested two Bosnians and a Moroccan in connection with a November grenade attack on police, officials said. One of the detained is suspected of having links with the Algerian Islamic militant group GIA, according to a police official. The group's supporters were blamed for the bomblice official. The group's supporters were blamed for the bomblice official. ings in Paris last summer which killed seven people.

Dictator's mass-murder trial resumes

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - The trial of 70 officials accused of mass murder under the dictatorship of Mengistu Haile Mariam was scheduled to resume yesterday following a delay during which attorneys requested time to prepare their defence. The former president and 23 others are being tried in absentia after they obtained asylum outside the country in 1991.

Iraqi general stands against Saddam

dam Hussein. Staff-Lieutenant General Nizar Khazraji said in a statement "Saddam's policies have destroyed the sovereignty and integrity of Iraq, its people and its armed forces."

Amnesty accuses 'reckless' police

Paris — Amnesty International said vesterday that French police have failed to change a pattern of "reckless" use of force, including shootings and beatings, detailed in the rights group's highly critical report of October 1994. The group noted that the victims of such abuse "were often juveniles and many were of non-

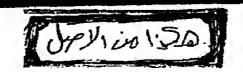
European ethnic origin. Chinese predicted Jiashi earthquake

Peking Chinese seismologists predicted months in advance the Chinese seismologists predicted months in advance the earthquake that recently shook the western Xinjiang region, the earthquake that recently shook the western Xinjiang region, the earthquake that recently shook the western Xinjiang region, the earthquake said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. Seismologists forecast at a seminar last Xinhua news agency said. S Because the award winning K-series engine has a patented 'through bolt' construction which offers exceptional power and fuel efficiency. Because the 2.0 litre T-series engines use direct fuel injection and crankshaft counterweights for stunning performance combined with superb refinement.

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Florence in a series in a seri



Parisians game to play God

What if a French filmmak-er set out to produce an account of the Mitterrand era on the model of JFK or Nixon? The weekly Paris Match offers what it thinks could be the ideal casting: Isabelle Adjani (last seen in *La Reine Margot*) to play Danielle Mitterrand, Richard Berry, starring in a comedy about the clash between gay and straight lifestyles, as Dieu bimself, and for Anne Pingeot, Mitterrand's long-time mistress, Fanny Ardant. The magazine also found the ideal actors for the role of Mitterrand's illegitimate daughter, Mazarine; and two of his prime ministers, Michel Rocard and Laurent Fabius.

Unfortunately a spanner was put in the works of this ingenious scenario right away by Adjuni who said she didn't think she would be at all good as Danielle Mitterrand and had the temerity to propose someone far less well-known in



Patrick d'Arvor: Return to TV news after 100-day ban

Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, France's 52-year-old star television presenter, is back on the screen of TFI's main evening news programme after a 100-day suspension, playing himself. He was banished in January, just before his conviction for corruption was upheld. His crime was to have accepted gifts, including holidays and designer suits, from the PR agent of the former mayor of Lyons, Michel Noir. His defence was that everyone else in the journalistic establishment was doing the same.

is known, has divided the French media; some think that his return discredits the news. others think that his private and professional lives can be separated. PPDA has spent his enforced leisure promoting his novel, filming in Madagascar and interviewing the Burmesc dissident, Aung San Suu Kyi, for TF1. The clinching argument for his return, however, seems to he the French television ratings war: the audience for the 8pm news declined during his absence. If it does not pick up now, the cognoscenti say, his future will be on the line again.

How do you play a national resource? And more to the point, who should be allowed to play such a role? The rush to put the life of Nelson Mandela on celluloid is forcing these questions to be examined more urgently. The South Africans, as one would expect, are protective, not to say possessive. The rest of the world might regard Mandela as a beacon for humanity, but his homeland is proprietorial. Having housed and fed him for 27 years, it presumably feels it has a stake in the legend.

So when it was announced yesterday that Miami-born, Ba-

The return of PPDA, as he hamas-educated. English sounding Sidney Poitier wanted the part, African feathers were ruffled. The veracity of the story, its texture and reality, could only come from a South African performance, said Dan Robbertse of the South African actors' union.

But the American backers of a planned television film for the US Showtime channel do not agree. The South African producer of the film, David Wicht, says the backers would only fund the film if Pottier was the star. "There are only a few actors out there who could convincingly play Nelson Mandela and Sidney Poitier is one of them." Mr Wicht said. Robbertse says local actors John Kani, Winston Ntshona or Zakes Mokae all have the skill to

play the "national treasure". Recently Mandela supported the tiny local film industry by selling rights to his best-selling autobiography to South rican director Anant Singh. "It is our duty to primarily support our own artists and give them resources and backing." Mr Mandela said. It looks like an uphill struggle. The top tip for the hero's role in a third film is Harry Belafonte.

James Roberts

Florence fights back against tourist army

ANDREW GUMBEL

With two international summit meetings looming at the start of a long, hol tourist season, the city of Florence is taking some unorthodox measures to spruce itself up and take control of the armies of visitors invading its streets and museums.

Special managers invadings are capturing Florence's 200,000 pigcons, feeding them contraceptive pills and exterminating any which show signs

Coach parties wanting to come into the centre of town will have to book shead and pay an admission fee if they want to get past checkpoints being set at the two main motorway



Alluring: Art-lovers flock to see Botticellis's 'Venus'

exits to the north and south of the Tuscan capital from the beginning of May. Only 150 coaches will be admitted each day: the other 400-odd now double- or triple-parking on Florence's narrow medieval streets, will have to stop on the outskirts, where buses will pick up the tourists and take them in and out of town.

Similarly, anyone wanting to visit the Uffizi Museum, home to many of the defining masterpieces of Italian Renaissance painting, will have to buy a ticket in advance and turn up at a pre-arranged time. The days of half-mile-long queues snaking all the way around Piazza della Signoria may soon be a thing

Union summit a week later, the city has banned the feeding of stray eats and introduced stiff fines for dog-owners who fail to clear up after their animals. Special handlers, meanwhile,

of illness.

And if that sounds weird there is something even strangcr in store for the summit days: the horses who transport tourists around the city's centre on specially painted carriages will be obliged to wear special ppies so they run no risk of fouling up the proceedings.

"We're not trying to stor anyone getting in to the city. We just want to regulate things a bit so that the avalanches of tourists don't end up overwhelming us, said Amos Cccchi, the Florence mobility councillor, a special post created last year to deal with the moving walis of distressed flesh that press into the city of Brunelleschi and Michelangele every spring and summer.

The measures, which mark the beginning of an effort to provide comprehensive booking packages for tourists covering hotels, museums, restaurants and cultural events, have not made Mr Ceechi particularly popular in Florence, which has seen scores of crowd-control plans come and go without any noticeable success.

The tourists, however, may not mind so much. Anyone who stands patiently in line to get into the Uffizi these days could be forgiven for thinking that Botticelli's l'enus rises not from a seashell but atop the bohbing heads of assorted back-packers from Karlsrube, Osaka and Cleveland, Ohio .

Millions of visitors besiege Florence, Venice and Rome every year and their numbers are rising. In Rome, where the problem is less noticeable because of its size, the authorities have told coach operators that anyone caught parking illegally this summer will have to come to grips with giant sets of wheelclamps specially made to

in the run-up to an international meeting on Bosnia on 14 combat the problem. Easter Special Offer. Save 10% now. Vehicle rescue from just £26.50° O JOIN TODAY CALL FREE REF:C3111 National Breakdown

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international

The longest, most expensive hunt in FBI history has led to the empty heartlands

On the trail of terror: a bombing spree that left three dead 3 4 Chigago 1 2 Evanston 24 June 1993 15 November 1985 15 November 1979 13 June 1985 11 December 1985 26 May 1978 Yale University Professor's home Aeropiane Computer store 1 Injury 1 injury 12 Injuries 10 June 1980 9 Mey 1979 24 April 1995 Chicago suburbs Forestry Association 1 Injury 1 Injury 1 death MONTANA 20 February 1987 Computer store WISCON 1 injury IDAHO WYOMING NEBRASKA COLORADO KANSAS 10 December 1994 N. CAROUNA Advertising executive's home NEW MEXICO 2 July 1982 ARIZONA GEORGI University of California 1 injury 15 Mey 1985 University of California TEXAS 8 October 1981 5 May 1982 1 injury Vanderbilt University University of Utah Bomb defused 20 February 1987 Computer store

After 18 ars, ha

RUPERT CORNWELL

Maybe the quest is finally over, and in e fashion as bizarre as this most extraordinary of cases deserves. Few criminals in recent times have caught America's imagination as has the "Unabomber", a Professor Moriarty among mail-bombers who for almost 18 years plied his trade from one end of the country to the other, defying - even mocking - every effort of the FBI to

Now the Feds seem to have got their man. The individual they have netted as their strongest suspect yet is not a big city crime shark protected by a shoal of attorneys, or a brutal killer from the backstreets. The longest and most expensive hunt in FBI history has led instead to the echoing, empty heartlands of the West, and a seemingly innocuous modernday hermit in a brick and board

For a dozen years now Theodore (Ted) Kaczynski has lived that way, without plumbing or electricity, using his excrement to fertilise his vegetable garden. He was a certified eccentric, a Harvard graduate who would ride a bicycle along the muddy roads into the remote Montana township of Lincoln (population 530), mainly to borrow what few

the public library. His beard was straggly, his clothes ill-fitting, of ten torn. People mostly liked him but left him alone, for Montana is a place where privacy is respected.
"I think most of us are root-

ing that this isn't the guy," said one of his neighbours, Larry Butler. "I don't believe it's him. If he's so educated, why did he live like that?" To which investigators have a simple answer. He lived like that because he as the Unabomber.

Only today will it be known... with certainty what crimes the 53-year-old Kaczynski will be charged with. But he fits the Un abomber's profile, elaborated by the FBL with uncanny precision

Just as the Bureau predicted he is a middle-aged white male well-educated and almost certainly with a failed university ca reer behind him, who mosthshunned human society to concentrate on his two preferred pursuits: developing his theory of the calamity to which the in dustrial revolution was leading mankind - and killing people with devilishly constructed

letter-bombs.
The Unabomber seems t have had special links with uni versity life in three places Chicago (where his famil lives). Utah, and northern Cal ifornia. On each score M. Kaczynski fits the bill. Afteria

Belarus leader vows to expel Kremlin's foes

HELEN WOMACK Moscow

Adopting a harsh tone remi-niscent of the Cold War, the hardline leader of Belarus. Alexander Lukashenko, yesterday threatened to expel diplomats and journalists who attended demonstrations against his policy of tighter

integration with Russia.
"We have issued protests to a number of diplomats," he said in remarks likely to astonish Western embassies used to more relaxed working conditions since the collapse of the Soviet Union. "We will act here creign and independent state. A diplomat must not march at the head of a demonstration."

Diplomats and reporters had been observing a protest by about 20,000 people who took to the streets of Minsk on Tuesday after Mr Lukashenko signed a treaty with President Boris Yeltsin in the Kremlin creating a mini-common market of Russia and Belarus.

Mr Lukashenko was espe-cially angry Russian relevision failed to point out he had banned street marches after a similar protest of Belarussian nationalists in March. "Active talks" had started with Russian television, he said. "These journalists will not be working here

for many more days."

As for the Western media, they were "so worried about our democracy. If this had happened in your country, you would not have dealt with it in

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

The 43-year-old military standoff between North and South

Korea grew more tense yester-

day after the Communist North renounced its obligations in

the demilitarised zone, which has separated the two armies since the Korcan War ended in South Korea warned it would

retaliate against any military

provocation following the announcement. After a meeting of security ministers, a defence

ministry official said Senul would not tolerate violations of the truce that cuded the war.

A statement broadcast from Pyongyang announced the

Korean People's Army, whose

1 million troops are massed close to the border, would "give

up its duty, under the armistice

agreement, concerning the

maintenance and control of

the military demarcation line and DMZ. Secondly, the KPA

side shall ... have its personnel and vehicles hear no distinctive

Belarus is among the most conservative former Soviet republics. This is thanks to Mr Lukashenko, whose eccentric behaviour prompts comparison with Russia's Vladimir Zhirinovsky.

The Belarus leader censors the local media and has suspended trade unions. Last year, angered Washington ing to apologise when the Belarus air force shot down American civilian balloonists who accidentally drifted over the republic's territory.

His dead hand has been particularly felt on the economy. which is so stagnant that the in unbending fashion as a sov- IMF has withdrawn support from Belarus. It is because of his republic's economic difficulties that he wants to move closer to Russia.

Tuesday's treaty stopped short of creating a single state but provided for co-ordinated foreign and defence policies and a common market in goods, services and labour. It was immediately criticised by economists in Moscow who said Mr Yeltsin, in his haste to convince voters he was matching Communist efforts to restore the old empire. exposed Russia to the danger of

being milked by Belarus. But there are signs Mi Yeltsin's passion might be cool-ing. On Tuesday, he and Mr Lukashenko called their new union the Commonwe Sovereign Republics Russian acronym SSR one letter short of (USSR). But alarmed by derisive press comment, Kremlin such a fashinn," he said.

Along with Uzbekistan, where the KGB remains active,

aides on Wednesday spoke on f a "Commonwealth Treaty"

Letters, page 2 aides on Wednesday spoke only

> clear but in the short term it may make little difference. The armistice, which ended the

> three-year war, has become

meaningless over the last few years, with both sides accusing cach another of violations. The

Military Armistice Council, the bilateral body responsible for monitoring the peace, has not met since 1994, when the North

But yesterday's announce-ment will fuel anxiety about the

intentions of Pyongyang at a troubled moment in the North's

history. Apart from uncertain-ties about the grip on power of its reclusive "Dear Leader", Kim Jong II, parts of the coun-

try are on the verge of famine

since disastrous floods last sum-

mer ruined the rice harvest. In December, the KPA moved

bombers close to the DMZ.

which is only 50km from the

South Korean capital, Seoul.

Since the war ended no formal

peace treaty has been signed. The armistice was a military

ceasefire signed by generals and

withdrew its mission.

North Korea fuels

frontier war fears

Letters, page 20

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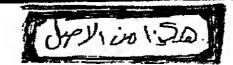
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25mm 1 Geng Metal Box	1	99p	69p	30p
Grommets PK.25	1	£2.29	£1.99	30p
Oval Conduit 20mm x 2m	1	£1.19	79p	40p
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MANDS OF PRO ISERIOUSLY LC

HOME

TO THE PERSON NAMED IN

heartlands of the West and a seemingly innocuous hermit in a brick and board shacktrap

ter wears, have they caught the Unabomber?

niversity of Chicago, before king a PhD in mathematics at e University of Michigan here his former professor sterday described Kaczynski "very serious and very le"]. He lived in Salt Lake ty for a while in the late 1970s d early 1980s. And before at, he had been an assistant aths professor at the Univery of California at Berkeley fore leaving after two years, r reasons that are unclear. And if the police theory is rrect, he also built bombs. The st attack was in 1978, a bomb dressed to Chicago Univery. The last of the 16 attributed the Unabomber came a year of Sacramento, California, nen Gilbert Murray, the Pres-ent of the California Forestry ssociation, was killed as he bened a package at his office. The bombs grew in sophistition with the years, often anted in skilfully carved

ith a trademark signature, All the while the police arched, hut in vain. "Somenes we'd get pretty close to m, especially in California in 195," Lou Betram, a retired BI agent who was on the Buaus Unabomber task-force in Francisco, said yesterday. But then he'd go into hiber-



THEODORE JOHN KACZYNSKI

Born: May 22, 1942 in Chicago, Ill. Prepared at Evergreen Park H.S., Evergreen Park, Dl. Home Address: 9209 Laundale, Evergreen Park, Ill. Field of Concentration: Mathematics. Scholarships and Prizes: Harvard College Scholarship.



Manhunt: An FBI artist's sketch of the Unabomber in 1994 (left); Ted Kaczynski's entry in the Harvard University yearbook for 1962

for a while, the trail would grow cold,"

But even Unabombers are not infallible. Exulting in his apparent mastery of the FBI, the master criminal made his mistake, in the form of a 35,000word treatise on the "Future of ation, nothing would happen Industrial Society", which he advice of the FBI.

submitted to the Washington Post and New York Times. If they published the rambling, antitechnology manifesto, the writer said, he would cease his campaign. After much soul-searching, the two papers did so on 20 September 1995, on the

some of Ted Kaczynski's earlier writings and the rambling musings of the Unabomber's tract, and eventually his brother informed the FBI. And so the trail of 18 years, dotted with 200 detained suspects along the Kaczynski is the Unabomber,

Relatives in Chicago were way, led to a hand-built cahin struck by similarities between near the Continental divide. But the tale may not yel be over. Barring a confession, or con-

attacks. Indeed yesterday there were reports that the FBI had found evidence which could clusive DNA tests on saliva provide alibis in at least two of them. And if so, some people from stamps affixed to the bomh packages, the FBI may vet have trouble in proving that surely will secretly be glad. After all, what is life without a few unsolved mysteries?

Manifesto of the Unabomber

Excerpts from the Unabomber's 35.000-word manifesto, published in the Washington Post and the New York Times in September, 1995

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

The Industrial Revolution and its consequences have been a disaster for the human race. They have greatly increased the life expectancy of those of us who live in "advanced" countries, but they have destabilised society, have made life unfulfilling, have subjected human beings to indignities, have led to widespread psychological suffering (in the Third World to physical suffering as well) and have inflicted severe damage on the natural world. The continued development of technology will worsen the situation. It will certainly subject human beings to greater indignities and inflict greater damage on the natural world, it will probably lead to greater social disruption...

We therefore advocate a revolution against the industrial system. This revolution may or may not make use of violence; it may be sudden or it may be relatively gradual. We can't predict any of that. But we do outline in a very general way the measures that those who hate the industrial system should take in order to prepare the way. This is not to be a POLITICAL REVOLUTION. Its object will be to overthrow not governments but the economic and technological basis of the present society.

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS AND "LEFTISM"

When we speak of leftists we have in mind mainly socialists. collectivists, "Politically correct" types, feminists, gay and disability activists, animal-rights activists and the like... Many leftists have an intense identification with the problems of groups that have an image of being weak (women), defeated (American Indians), repellent (homosexuals) or otherwise inferior. The leftists themselves feel that these groups are inferior... but would never admit it.

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Baltic states beg West to curb Russia

ADRIAN BRIDGE Central Europe Correspondent

Vytautas Landsbergis, the champion of Lithuanian independence, yesterday called on the West to take a leaf out of Moscow's book and say "Nyet" to those in Russia who are openly pushing for the restoration of the Soviet Union.

Speaking to the Independent, Mr Landsbergis said all three Baltic states felt increasingly threatened by what they saw as a return to imperialistic thinking by their giant neighbour in the east.

Unless the West registered a strong protest now, be warned, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia may prove unable to resist being sucked back into a Moscowdominated orbit, ending up as little more than satellite states.

"If this trend towards the reintegration [of former Soviet republics] is not opposed strongly enough. Russia will see that as a signal it can pro-ceed," he said. "It is time for a clear message from the West:
'Nyct!' - 'No, Never again'."

Like many in the Baltics, Mr Landsbergis was alarmed by last month's vote in the Russian Duma, denouncing the disso-tution of the old Soviet Union in late 1991.

He has watched anxiously as the former Soviet republics of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan signed an agreement aimed at forging closer economic ties and, earlier this week, as Russia and Belarus forged a closer political and military union.

"I was saddened to see the people of Belarus giving up the fight for self-determination," said Mr Landsbergis, a former musician who leapt to fame as the leader of Lithuania's bloody independence struggle in 1990-1991 and who, after a spell as President, now heads the op-position. "The danger for Lithuania has increased."

Although the drive to re-store the Soviet Union is heing spearheaded by Russian Communists, the cause has been taken up in part by President Boris Yeltsin, anxious to boost his chances in June's presidential election. It was President Yeltsin, after the agreement between Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, who said that "the new community is open to other states ... maybe the Baltic states or perhaps, for example, Bulgaria."

Baltic leaders stress that after 50 years of enforced incorporation into the Soviet Union they have no interest in joining another Moscow-led alliance. Instead, they plan to redouble their efforts to join the Euro-pean Union and Nato.

"If some of the former Soviet republics want to form a new union, that is up to them, but it is not what we want," said an Estonian foreign ministry spokesman. "The more pressure we feel coming from Russia, the

Officially, Baltic politicians regard memhership of the EU and Nato as two sides of the same coin. Unofficially, however, some recognise that. given the scale of Russian objections to Nato's enlargement and their geographical position, they are unlikely to join the Western military alliance in the

near future, if at all. While not withdrawing their attempts to join Nato. some Baltic leaders are exploring the possibility of an alternative form of security guarantee from the West. They are also hegin-ning to place more emphasis on the more realistic goal of EU membership, against which Russia has not expressed such fierce opposition.

"Our main priority must he to turn our economies round so



Landsbergis of Lithuania (above) and Laar of Estonia: West must block revival of Sovlet Union



that, effectively, we actually do integrate with the West," said Mart Laar, the former Estonian prime minister who spearheaded what is widely seen as one of the most successful economic transformations in the former Communist bloc.

Of all the Baltic capitals, Tallinn, with its heautiful mediaeval heart, smart shops and boatloads of Finnish visitors, has moved the furthest away from the grey days of Soviet rule. To many people it looks as if it is already part of the West.

"We hope that by the time we join the EU it may well have a defence element," said Mr Laar, a member of the younger generation that is trying to take a less alarmist view of developments in Russia. "But in the end, it is foreign investment that really counts. If the West is prepared to put its money here, then that is a higher guarantee of our security than any num-

Ron Brown

Ron Brown, who was killled in a plane crash in Croatia on Wednesday, was one of the most important of a new breed of black American politicians who succeeded not by playing the card of his race, but by his skills as a political organiser. President Bill Clinton, who

made Brown his Commerce Secretary, is known to have leaned heavily on his advice. At the same time, Brown's ambition and his pragmatism occa-sionally took him into dodgy areas. When he died he was under investigation for what amount to bribery allegations, not for the first time, though he was cleared on the earlier occasion and strenuously denied the later charges; and his law firm represented the Duvalier regime in Haiti.

When he was chosen as the chairman of the Democratic National Committee in 1989 he was the first black chairman of either major party in American history. He played a vital role making his election happen.

"He was one of the best advisers and the ablest people 1 ever knew." Clinton said of Brown yesterday, "and he was very, very good at everything he ever did."

After his 1992 victory, Clinton offered Brown the cahinetlevel post of US ambassador to the United Nations, Brown turned it down, apparently because he thought it had become a stereotyped "black job". Instead he opted for being Secretary of Commerce.

Of recent years the Commerce Department has scarcebeen at the centre of Washington's attention, and there have been proposals that it should be abolished. Ron Brown made it a power centre. Picking up the Clinton Administration's interest in aggressive campaigns for free trade, he saw the political potential of hashing foreigners in the interests of protecting the jobs of those American industrial workers who are tempted to become Reagan or Buchanan Republi-

unemployment. Transforming the dowdy de-partment huilding into a trendy post-modernist place full of fish-tanks and photographs of himself, Brown set a national target of doubling US exports to one trillion dollars by the end of the century. He claimed this would create 6 million new jobs in America. He made it his special husi-

cans because of their fear of

ness to look for opportunities for American husiness in the world's trouble-spots. He paid repeated visits to South Africa, the West Bank and Northern Ireland. His philosophy was to reinforce peace negotiations with economic development and to use American military and strategic power to generate opportunities for American

On the trip to Bosnia and Croatia which cost him his life. Brown was boping to replace Airbus with Boeing as a supplier of airliners to the Croatian government. "Two weeks ago."

he told Washington reporters shortly before leaving, "that was a done deal for Airbus. Just the fact that we are going has at least had the impact of get-ting Boeing back to the table." His interventions were gen-

erally welcomed. Baroness Denton of Wakefield, the Northern Ireland Economy Minis-ter, yesterday called Brown "a real mover and shaker". He organised the Washington investment conference on Northern Ireland last May and is credited with playing a major part in persuading President Clinton to visit Belfast last year.

Ron Brown was born in Washington in 1941 to a middleclass African-American family which later moved to Harlem. His father, a university graduate, was the manager of the famous Hotel Theresa, a Harlem landmark much frequented by black musicians and showbusiness types, and later served as an official in the Roosevelt

colour of his skin. He agreed to join only on condition he hecame its first black full member, which obliged the fraternity to change its national

He did his law degree at St DC 1 August 1941; US Secretary, John's University in New York Department of Commerce 1993and then went to work for the Urban League, a civil rights organisation whose strategy has always been to work within the 96; married 1962 Alma Arrington (one son, one daughter); died Dubrovnik, Croatia 3 April 1996.

system. In 1980 be joined Senator Edward Kennedy's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. The following year be went to work for the Washington law-andlobbying firm of Patton, Boggs and Blow. He was perfectly suited to the firm, with its deep network of connections in Congress, the Washington hureaucracies and the Democratic

Party around the country.

Brown's function in the firm was as a "rainmaker", to bring in wealthy clients. In law practice and in politics Ron Brown was the ultimate pragmatist. His instinctive political sympathies were with the liberal wing of the Democratic Party, and he worked for the Rev Jesse Jackson in the 1984 and 1988 campaigns.

In fact, Brown had drawn from the experience of 1980 the conclusion that the Democrats must not be divided. Even as an impeccably dressed, opulently fed lawyer-around-Washington hury College in Vermont. While there he was invited to join a student fraternity as a control of the control of ate member because of the for policies to help ordinary working Americans, hlack or

> Godfrey Hodgson Ronald Harmon Brown, lawyer and politician: born Washington



Photograph: Neil Letter / Time

Dr Richard Mackarness

Richard Mackarness was a physician of great vision, a man of original mind who, though much frustrated by the sceptics in his own profession, fought with some success for the recognition in Britain of "Clinical Ecology". By his own example and as a doctor bringing relief to many people, he established that food allergies can be the cause of a variety of illnesses.

In Not All in the Mind (1976), Mackarness described the case of Joanna D, a young woman patient referred to him for treatment in May 1973. She had been admitted to hospital many times following outhreaks of violence to herself and her children. Dietary treatment restored her completely to a normal life free of drugs. She remains a splendid vindication of Mackarness's cause.

The Lancet commented on his methods, results and conclusions on 3 February 1979: Clearly food intolerance can produce widespread symptoms in susceptible individuals, and many patients with troublesome and hitherto intractable symptoms can now be helped.

Not All in the Mind was a kind of "do-it-yourself" manual for those who suffered foodrelated allergies hut failed to find doctors prepared to take them seriously. The hasic principle was for patients to go for several days without their usual foods, and then reintroduce them one by one. If one was the cause of their allergy, they would suffer a strong reaction to it.

Mackarness was born in 1916 in Murree, India, in what is now Pakistan. His parents came originally from Scarborough. His father worked in government service as Conservator of Forests. At the age of six Richard was taken to England to be raised by a widowed aunt with five children, who became as close to him as brothers and



sisters. He was educated at Lancing College and at the Westminster Teaching Hospital. He then temporarily aban-

doned medicine for a course in drawing and painting at the Westminster Art School, There followed a short spell in Bomhav as an illustrator and artist for the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency. At the out-hreak of the Second World War he returned to Britain to enlist in the Army, but was directed to finish his medical studies. On qualifying in 1941, he was commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps

and rose to the rank of captain. After the war he took a numher of hospital jobs, then became an illustrator and artistic adviser in an educational film company - where he met his wife Margaret ("Hitty") Perry-Walker. He returned in full-time medical practice, first in

Fulham, and from 1947 in Kew. His first book, Eat Fat and Grow Slim (1958), exposed the "calorie fallacy" and proposed a non-carbohydrate "Stone Age" diet of protein and fat with no restriction as to the amount

eaten. The book was immensely popular and went through six editions. While promoting it in Chicago, Mackarness met Dr Ted Rudolph, the "father" of food and inhalant allergy who had started the "Clinical Ecology" treatment in the United States. Rudolph suggested to Mackarness that he too might benefit from finding out what he was allergic to, and thereby alleviate his tiredness.

The Randolph treatment proved so successful that Mackarness returned to England resolved to use it to help some of his difficult patients and to spread the word to other doctors. But his colleagues were suspicious of the then unfamiliar idea that diet could cure allergic manifestations, or of the suggestion of a connection between diet and mental illness. Mackarness had a flair for

writing and from the 1950s contributed a medical column first to the News Chronicle and then, on that newspaper's closure in 1960, to the Daily Mail. The strain of running a general practice combined with journalism eventually became too much, however, so in 1965 Mackarness accepted a position as a psychiatric registrar at the Park Prewett Mental Hospital, Basingstoke, where he stayed for the next 16 years. On completing the Diploma in Psy-chiatric Medicine, he was appointed to the permanent psychiatric staff.

It was a breakthrough fur Mackarness that the first and only NHS Clinical Ecology Unit

automatic trains ran on the London

was opened at the Park Prewett Hospital while he was there. There was a rush for treatment; long queues because of the lack of NHS doctors able to advise on the subject disheartened him. He helped to found "Actinn Against Allergy" - now a world-wide pressure group.

He expanded on the theme of food and chemical allergies in Chemical Victims (1980), which dealt with the chemicals in the environment that cause migraine, depression, fatigue, skin troubles, bowel disorders, and with modern medicine's vain efforts to stem the tide by increased prescription of drugs and ever more complex surgery.

He gave the income from his two bestsellers, Not All in the Mind and Chemical Victims, to the Chemical Victims Association, which he also founded. His last book, written in Australia, was A Little of What You Fancy (1985), in which he showed how addiction/allergy to smoking, alcohol, even to coffee, can be gradually controlled.

On his retirement in 1981 Mackarness and his wife moved to Australia to be near their son. Patrick: he continued his medical work at an Alcoholic and Drug Dependency Unit and took up painting again. Sadly, in 1984 his wife died of cancer.

Richard Mackarness was an exceptional man of many talents; above all he was modest and humble, though a fighter and a born agitator, as he said of himself. He listened to his patients. He restored the quality of life to thousands suffering miscry. He was a true healer.

Roland Hill

Guy Richard Godfrey Mackamess. physician and writer, born Murree, India 17 August 1916; married 1947 Margaret Perry-Walker (died 1984; one son); died Momington, Australia 18 March 1996. | Morgan: monetary policy

E. V. Morgan

E. V. Morgan researched in and made substantial contributions to several areas of economics. He was particularly interested in monetary and financial institutions and monetary policy. and in international trade. His work on monetary poli-

cy established his importance. There his contributions were remarkable. In 1957 Peter Thorneycroft, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, had established the Radcliffe Committee to appraise the importance of monetary policy. The major conclusion of the committee's report, produced in 1959, was that money did not matter in economic policy; for, if the Government attempted to control it, substitutes would emerge so rapidly that the attempt at control would prove pointless. Thus the advice was that monctary policy was of no importance, and that monetary control would not lead to

Victor Morgan dissented strongly from this fashionable establishment view. He set out his dissent first in his contribution to a collection of essays by notable economists, Not Unanimous - a Rival Verdict to Radcliffe's on Money, published in 1960 by the Institute of Eco-

inflation control



nomic Affairs. In his essay, "Money - Theory", Morgan attacked three popular beliefs. He criticised willingness to allow inflation in the belief that was inseparable from real growth; he condemned the Government's failure either to impose on itself or accept from outside any form of antiinflationary discipline; and he

attacked the reluctance to tolerate fluctuations in short-term interest rates. Had these views been listened to, Britain's subsequent inflation experience would have been much less damaging, Morgan developed his ideas still further in another IEA paper, published in 1964, Monetary Policy for Stable Growth. In this he proposed greater autonomy for the Bank of England in the conduct of monetary policy, the introduction of a rule for the rate of growth of the money supply. and giving up the subsection of all objectives of economic pol-

"full employment". Both Morgan's life and his career were remarkable. He was born with exceptionally poor eyesight, and this severely hampered his learning when a child. His mother, however, had been a teacher, and she taught him until he went to Warwick School. From there he went on to Sidney Sussex College.

icy to the ill-defined good of

This in itself was a great achievement for someone who as a child it was thought would never he able to lead a normal life. But be followed it up with a series of teaching posts at various universities. His first was as a lecturer in economics at University College, Swansea. Five years later, in 1945, when only 30 years old, he became Professor there. In 1966 he at Reading where he stayed until 1981.

Among his books were The Among its books were The Stock Exchange (written with W.A. Thomas, 1962), A History of Money (1965). The Economics of Public Policy (1972), Banking Systems and Monetary Policy in the LEC (with Richard Harriston and General Harrington and George Zis, 1974), Personal Savings, and Wealth in Britain (1975) and Capital Markets in the EEG (with ARICHARD HARRINGTON, 1976).

In those and in all his writtings Moses a knowed by Error

ings Morgan showed a firm grasp of economic analysis, and a clear understanding both of how to use economic data and of the limitations of the data. Not only did he display these qualities in his writing he was also an eager participant in academic dehate. In feminars he was to be seen peering at a manuscript from only an inch or two away, to emerge with a question almost sure to disconcert the paper's author, sometimes by showing an error in his analysis but note often - Morgan was a king and generous man - drawing put an important implication hat the author himself had ovrlooked. He was also a lucid lequrer, and

Victor Morgan wasan economist whose work whether written or spoken, alvays merited the closest attention. Much was always to be leaded from his profound scholarhip.

a writer of clear and rigorous

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Edward Victor Morga, econo-mist born Harbury, Wavickshire 27 October 1915; Prifessor of Economics, Universit College, Swansea 1945-66; Pefessor of Economics, Manchestr University 1966-74; Professy of Economics, Reading iniversity moved to a Chair at Manches-ter University and in 1974 to one children); died 10 Nach 1996.

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

DEATHS

HODGART: On 3 April, at Brighton General Hospital. Professor Matthew John Caldwell. aged 79. Very dear hus-band of Patricia and father of Jame and Stephen and stepfather of Suzanne. Private cremation. Family flowers

only.

WHITFIELD: Dr Phillip, of Peubles, Scotland. On 4 April 1996, after a short illness, GP. Paediatrician, poet and creative thinker, greatly lowed and loving husband of Pauline, father of Jeremy, Judith, Miranda, Kate and Nicola and grandfather of 11 grandchildren. Robin Hill, 2 Eastgate, Peubles.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

GAVIN: A service of thanksgiving for the life of Edmund Gavin will be held at St Paul's Church, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, on 20 April, at 12

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & HEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Cannry Wharf. London Et 4 5DL, telephoned in 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavairy Mounted Regi-ment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11 am; 1st Battalion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

Birthdays

Professor John Albery, Master of University College, Oxford, 60; Vice-Admiral Sir Neil Anderson, former Chief of Defence Staff (New Zcaland), 69; Miss Jane Asher, actress, 50; Mr Michael Bryant, actor. 68; Mr Andrew Buxton, chairman, Barclays Bank, 57; Mr Allan Clarke, rock singer, 54; Mr Roger Corman, film director and producer, 70: Baroness Delacourt-Smith of Al-teryn, 80; Mr John Dick, former dior. N.M. Rothschild & Sons, 83; Miss Agnotha Faltskog, former singer with Abba, 46; Mr Tom Finney, footballer. 74; Dr John Gilbert MP, 69; Mr Arthur Hailey, author, 76; Mr Nigel Hawthome, actor, 67; Sir Douglas Henley, former Audinor-General, 77; Professor Denis Lawton, Chairman, London University School Exnations Board, 65: Admirel Siz Michael Livesay, former Chief of Naval Personnel, 60; Professor Donald Lynden-Bell, astronomer, 6t; Professor Peter Moore, former Principal, London Business School, 68; Mr Stanley Orme MP, 73; Mr Gre-gory Peck, actor, 80; Miss Jennifer Penney, ballerina, 50: General Colin Powell, former chairman, American Joint Chiefs of Staff, 59: Lord Rockley, chairman, Kleinwort Benson, 62: Miss Anne Scott-James,

Anniversaries

Births: Thomas Hobbes, philosopher, 1583: John Wilson, lutenist, singer and composer, 1595; Eithu Yale, merchant, administrator and founder i Yale College, t649; Giovanni Giacomo Casanova, Chevalier de Seingalt, lover and adventurer, 1724: Jean-Honoré Fragonard, painter. Valera as president, 1919; Sir Win-1732; Sébastien Erard, piano and ston Churchill resigned as Prime Min-harp maker, 1752; Ludwie Sooht, vi. ister 1955—the first drivas large

olin virtuoso and composer, 1784; Sir Henry Havelock, general, 1795; Jules Dupré, tandscape painter, 1811; Syd-ney Thompson Dobell, poet, 1824; Joseph Lister, first Baron Lister, sur-Underground, 1964; the Canard lin-er Queen Elizabeth was sold to an American syndicate for £3.23m. 1968; in Sicily, Mount Etna erupted. geon and pioneer of antiseptics in surgery, 1827; Jules-François Camille Ferry, statesman, 1832; Algernon Charles Swinburne, poet, 1837; Albert-Charles Paul-Marie Roussel, followed by violent flows of lava, 1971; Sir Harold Wilson resigned as Prime Minister, 1976. Today is Good Friday and the Feast Day of St Albert of Montecorvino, St Derfelcomposer, 1869; Spencer Tracy, actor, 1900; Bette (Ruth Elizabeth) Gadarn, St Ethelburga of Lyminge, St Gerald of Souve-Majeure and St Vincent Ferrer. Davis, actress, 1908. Deaths: William RAF College Cranwell Air Marshal Sir John Cheshire, UK All marshal strong cleamer, or Amilitary Representative, Headquarters Nato, was the Reviewing Officer at the Graduation of 89 officers of No 160 Initial Officer Training

Brouncker, second Viscoun Brouncker, first President of the Royal Society, 1684; Georges-Jacques Danton, French revolu-ulonary leader, guillotined 1794; Robert Raikes, founder of Sunday Schools, 1811; Paul Vidal de la Blache, geographer, 1918; George Edward Stanhope Molyneux Herbert, fifth Earl of Carnaryon, Egyptologist, 1923; Jane Ellen Harrison, scholar and archaeologist, 1928; Donglas MacArthur, general, 1964; Howard Robard Hughes, aviator, industrialist and film producer, 1976; Chiang Kai-shek, Chinese statesman and soldier, 1975; Marshal of the RAF Sir Arthur Travers Harris, former chief of Bomber Command, 1984. On this day: the Addled Parliament (which made no enactments) began withing, 1614; the French army of Italy was defeated by the Austrians at the Battle of Magnano, 1799; Strauss's opera *Die Fiedermaus* was first performed, Vienna 1874; Oscar Wilde

was arrested for offences committed with Lord Alfred Douglas, 1895; an attempt was made to assassinate the Prince of Wales in Brussels,

1900; the Observer newspaper was acquired by W.W. (later Lord) Astor,

1911; the Dail Eireann chose a Sinn Fein Executive, with Eamoo de

Appointments Mr Christopher Crabble, to be Am-bassador to Bucharest.

Mr Donald Hugh Stevenson Coaway, to be a full-time Immigration Adju-dicator, designated a Special Adju-Mr Andrew Thomas and Mr David er, to be members of the Legal Aid Board.

Mr Brian Walsh QC, to be a circuit

Course and 10 officers of No 260 Specialist Entrant and Re-entrant Course yesterday from the RAF College Cranwell, Sleaford, Lin-colnshire.

judge, assigned to the North Eastern Circuit, and to be the Senior Circuit Judge in Leeds. Mr Philip Carl, Mr Jeremy George Connor, Mr David Francis Effer QC. Mr Michael John Carroll, Mr Richard Michael Hayward and Mr Robert WakeBeld, to be circuit judges, assigned in the South East-

God save us from the God who interveres On Good Friday it is important to ask how

a declining church contemplates the death of Christ. Grace Davie is one of the chroniclers of that decline. She illuminates our plight

in a wry account of an interview which went "Do you believe in God?"

Yes. "Do you believe in a God who intervenes to change the course of events on earth?"

"No, just the ordinary one."

That hurts, if we let it. But a chastened church might find a renewal of faith in the ordinary God who is revealed in Christ's death Conventional belief bawls at God for

recognition and for intervention. This is embarrassingly true of the teeming mass of Christian practice in history, from Eo-ropean painted plaster Baroque through American Honky-Tonk Gothic, to contemporary hi-tech boopla. The noise! The

people! Our conflicting hrands of fervour can be shaming. The emburrassment becomes the sharper when the show turns up in your own town. The minister of the Castlemilk estate in Glasgrw was once describing how a cross had been rescued from the dehris of a demolished Glasgow hospital. He brandished the great brass cross from the pulpit in impressive demonstration.

lasked him later - if the wreckage had revealed a crucifix would be have waved that about in the kirk? Pass. If, as Hans Kung says, the death of Christ is the signature of Christianity, each church still

Arguments O Easter

The Rev John Kennedy reflects today on the lessons that the death of Jesus holds for a

church which, in Europe at least, appears to be shrinking as the millennium approaches.

seems to think that the others are peddling

forgeries.
Our clamour for deliverance from the pains of fate and death has an unfortunate implication. What happens to those who do not clamour, or do it in the wrong tone? Do they deserve to suffer the rav-ages of fate and the torments of cternal death? For our excluding instincts infect even our most beloved texts. From outside, one favourite text actually implies that God so bated the world, that whoever does not believe in the prescribed way, should suffer that eternal doom. There's a thought to stop us in our tracks. But that is what the death of Christ is supposed to do - to make us repent, not just of our manifold wickedness but of our selfrighteous complacency. God save us from the God who intervenes.

So the crisis of European Christendom in our understanding of the death of death of Christ

Christ. As our parish shrinks, peraps we can risk heing less parochial. Aer all, when we were a struggling, embattld, Levantine sect. God gave us astoshing qualities of spiritual imagination. Or forebears in Christ saw his death not st as for the faithful but for all creation. for the faithful, but for all creation, was they who imagined Christ as "cruffed from before the foundation of the eth". They saw Christ not as Lord othe Church hut of all things. For then the meanings of the death of Christ ere many, here is one. Jesus was not kille by God, or by the Jews. Jesus was kille by us, to show that we too must love onenother or die. The Church, however, an turn such a universal truth into a piccof

religious property.

European Christianity may indeed. cline for a while into a phenomenonf mainly historical interest. But the meern world will be manageable only it. combines a passionate sense of our comon humanity with a thoroughly unse timental expectation of the huma enterprise. That is a demanding disciplin which Christians bave learned from the Christ who died at the hands of, and fo the sake of, that bumanity,

Meanwhile, we should use the time o our humiliation to explore God's com mitment in Christ to all His people; per-haps sometimes in the next millennium we shall think it hlasphemous to call for His intervention on the part our own religious faction. Then we shall have learnt to praise. might lead us to be bolder as we shape our-selves for the third millennium, not least selves for the third millennium, not least

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Resurrection revisited

Arguments over the Resurrection have raged back and forth for nearly 2,000 years. At first, people doubted whether it did happen. Later, with the rise of modern science, people believed that it could not have happened. But now, argues Andrew Brown, these questions have subtly changed: we realise no facts can be known without faith

The discovery last week of a chest dance with the Scriptures, and that he in which the bones of someone named Jesus, son of Joseph, may have been slored alongside those of two Marys, a Matthew, and a Juda, son of Jesus, almost certainly adds nothing to anyone's understanding of what actually occurred after the crucifixion. But it has already been seized upon as ammunition in the war between believers, half-helievers and unbelievers.

In Christian countries, three views have been held about the Resurrection in modern times. They can be put crudely. The first is that Christ's tomh was empty. His body had been resurrected and was later physically encountered by his followers, so oving the truth of his claims about himself. The second is that his body rotted. proving the falsehood of Christian heliefs

belief that the Resurrection had happened. The most vivid, and widely misunderstood expression of this last view was provided by the former Bishop of Durham, Dr David Jenkins, when he said that the Resurrection "was not just a conjuring trick with hones", although, like many a better philosopher, he never managed to explain quite what it

The clearest contradiction of this came from his successor, the Rt Rev Michael Turnbull, when where they laid him' bappened roughly 1,966 his appointment to Durham was announced.

who said that if you had had a video cam- thing new could be added by modern sciera at the time and pointed it at the tomb, you would have seen it empty, and outside it, visible on the tape, the figure of the risen Jesus talking to the women, just as Mark's Gospel says in what most scholars agree is the earliest description of the event, writ-

ien perhaps 40 years later: [Mark 16:2] "Very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?' And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back. It was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, 'Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where

That is the first description of the Resurrection. It is not the first assertion that it happened. That comes in one of the letters of Paul, written hefore any of the Gospels, in around 50AD:

[1 Cor 15:3] "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accor-

appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one

untimely born, he appeared also tn me." This wording, says Dr Tom Wright, the Dean of Lichfield Cathedral conceals an important point in an oral culture: Paul, when he says that the knowledge "has been delivered to him", is promising that his account is accurate and authentic. He is putting forward the names of the niher people in whom Jesus appeared as refer-ces, so to say, of his own experience.

This traditional view has an apposite, namely that the Resurrection was a fraud. about him. The third is that we cannot by the methods of history discover for sure what happened to his body, but what matters is the effects of the perpetrated by the first disciples, perhaps unconscinusly, because they could not

And entering the

tomb, they saw a

young man ... And

he said to them, 'Do

not be amazed; you

seek Jesus ... who

was crucified. He

has risen, he is not

here; see the place

Gospel, in which the soldiers who had heen guarding the tomh are ordered: Tell people, His disciples came by night and stale him away while we were asleep and this story has been spread among the Jews

In other words, a video camera, pointed at the tomb, would have shown a group of disciples rolling away the stone, dragging the body away into the

years ago, it seems at first surprising that any-

ence to these disputes. In fact, archaeology, history and science have all been pressed into service in the modern reruns of these arguments.

For Tom Wright, the historic evidence points towards the truth of the Resurrection and of the empty tomb, if only because it is unlikely that a mere hallucination could have had such tremendous effects. There were lots of messianic movements between 50BC and 150AD and in all cases they ended with the violent death of the Saviour proving that he was not the Messiah. Why did the Christians alone believe that the Messiah had come even after he had been killed?"

But historical inquiry of this sort has traditionally been used as a weapon against Christian orthodoxy and still is. The "Jesus Seminar", for example, a group of American scholars, is determined to produce an edition of the sayings of Jesus which can he trusted as authentic, and one of their principles of selection is that any of the Gospel sayings where he seems to be ideotifying himself as the Son of God, in the sense that later Christian orthodoxy would interpret the phrase, is a later

According to the mainstream of this search for a historic figure beneath the



Resurrection of Christ, 1570-75 by Veronese. The Bridgeman, Gernaldegalerie, Dresden

Gospels, Jesus himself, as a pious itiner-ant rabhi and exorcist, would have thought it blasphemous or insane to claim be was the second person of the Trinity. This view is put most forcefully in this country by the Jewish scholar Hyam Maccoby, who in a series of books has argued that Christianity as we know it was essentially the invention of St Paul, and that Jesus as a devout, if mistaken, Jew would have been

horrified by the use made of his message

after his death. However, this is not the only reinterpretation of Jesus on offer in the light of 20th-century understandings.

Nicholas Lash, Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, believes that post-modernism has made the Resurrection narratives easier to understand: "Post-modernism should mean, and sometimes does, that we are

becoming able to think ahout the period in Western culture from the early seventeenth century to yesterday as an episode, rather than as the framework through

which every sensible person thinks about everything.

"One of the defining features of the modern period was the simple conviction that statements are either simple factual

statements or simple fictional statements.

It had absolutely no space for narrative: if you told a story, it was only to illustrate a

The balance of evidence is to me that they did find the tomb empty. But that is

a historical question, not a theological one."

The tangle of theology and history is at the heart of all these arguments. The Resurrection cannot be understood as either purely historical or purely theological, according to Professor Lash. St Thomas Aguinas asked whether it would have heen 'fitting' for the disciples to witness the Resurrection: in other words, whether the Bishop with a video camera would have seen anything; and his answer, in the end, was that 'the disciples did see him rising, when, with the eyes of faith, they saw liv-

ing him whom they knew dead." This position can seem close to some modern attempts to explain away all miracle in the Bible on the grounds that what really happened was perfectly natural hut had been misunderstood by ignarant Galilean peasants. However, post-mod-ernist Christianity would say that a mira-cle can never be reduced to an event: a miracle is an event with a meaning. A rain of miniature winged pigs on Beckenham, however improbable, would not qualify as a miracle unless it also demonstrated God's nature.

Many Christian scientists, such as Dr Fraser Watts, a psychologist who is the first hulder of the Starbridge chair in Science and Theology at the University of Cam-bridge, are reluctant to talk about miracles as breaking the laws of nature.

") dnn't want to talk about the suspension of the laws of nature; rather ahout their transcendence," he says.

Dr Watts helieves his own studies into consciousness provide a hint into how such a transcendence might exist. "As nature develops and hecomes increasingly complex, particularly in the context of the human brain, which is the most complex thing known to us, new properties such as consciousness develop. And consciousness, in turn, transforms the processes from which it has arisen, so that thoughts can leave their mark on the physical structures of the brain.

"In a similar way, the Resurrection could involve a transformation of the natural creation, not just a freaky spiritual event. Scientific progress has provided us with a model or analogy which enables us to hegin to make sense of such things. It is not an explanation, but it is a better model than we had 100 years ago; and it is certainly not science showing us that the Resurrection is impossible."

Most arguments about the Resurreclion could only be settled by the reappearance of the body in question. Yet the argument does progress. During most of the past 150 years, it seemed obvious that the story must have some relation to "what really happened": that somewhere beneath or hehind the words of the Gospels was a set of facts that could settle the wrangling for ever. Now, we are less confident that facts of this sort have ever existed anywhere. Facts come only embedded in stories; and the facts of the Resurrection cannot, we now understand. ever be seen without preconceptions.

V Jerusalem diary

like this. Before

the

Fire and frenzy in the chapel

The most appealing ceremony in Jerusalem over Easter is the ceremony of the Holy Fire, when the Greek of the Holy Fire, when the Greek Orthodox patriarch and the Armenian hishop enter the Holy Sepulchre itself to receive fire from heaven. As many as 20,000 pilgrims – including ageing but aggressive Greek ladies armed with folding metal stools and Egyptian Copts in long white robes – crowd into the church to see the ceremony. The fire is church to see the ceremony. The fire is handed out through a hole in the wall of the chapel over the Holy Sepulchre and the church blazes with light as each pilgrim lights a bundle of 33 candles.

The ceremony, first mentioned in the

ninth century, is one of the oldest in Jerusalem, Robert Curzon, the English traveller, was in Jerusalem for Easter in 1834, and described how "the people in their frenzy put the bunches of lighted tapers to their faces, hands and breasts to purify themselves from their sins". It is all a little lamer loday, but before the Bolshevik revolution a ship waited in Jaffa to take the sacred fire to Russia.

The number of people who crowd into the church makes attendance somewhat nerve-racking. Last year I watched from the safety of the Armenian gallery. When Robert Curzon attended 150 years ago there was a panic among the pilgrims, exacerbated by the guards of the Egyptian viceroy, Ibrahim Pasha, who thought they were under attack. Curzon, who just escaped with his life, wrote: "I saw full 400 unhappy people, dead and living, heaped promiscuously one upon the other, in some places about five feet high."

Riot squad charges marching scouts

The Jerusalem riot squad was quick in set the tone for the Easter festivities. Latin Christians traditionally mark Palm Sunday with a march, led by boy and girl sconts in red and navy blue

berets, into the Old City. Israeli checkpoints around Jerusalem kept numbers down in about 500 this year, instead of the usual 4,000, by stopping scouts entering Jerusalem from nearby Chris-

As the marchers, waving palm fronds, walked beside the Ottoman walls, they began to spill off the pavement into the main road. The riot squad knows what tn dn in



of the scouts, they charged the procession, waving their batons and sending small girls, who had been peaceably banging large drums, scurrying for

In defence of the Jerusalem police, it could be said that the ethnic or religious persuasion of peaceable marchers, voters or protesters makes no difference to them. Recently, they were in action against Ethiopian Jews who were protesting because it had just been revealed that their contributions to the blood bank had been routinely thrown away for fear of Aids.

With nther journalists I stood on top of some concrete tubs, used for growing flowers, for a better view. Unfortunately, this was exactly where the Ethiopians broke through. They were still peaceful until a policeman standing beside me squirted them with tear gas. Part of this went straight into my face. By the time I came to, 20 minutes later, Jerusalem's finest had provoked ooe of the city's nastier riots.

Cross words over a gold medallion

The menace and the charm of Jerusalem is that it is full of people who detest each other but are compelled, for the moment, to live together. The main Concerns before Passover

division is between Israeli and Palestinian, but every religious and ethnic group watches its rivals with the deepest suspicion. When the municipality circulated a draft design of a gold medallion to celebrate the capture of the city by King David 3,000 years ago, it got a hostile response from the ultra-orthodox Jews. They pointed out that among the religious monuments shown on the medal was the Russian Church on the Mount of Olives, with crosses topping its onion domes. They demanded these be removed immediately. The municipality compromised by removing four of the crosses and shrinking a fifth so that it is barely distinguishable.

Restaurants rebel at kosher crackdowns

In the ultra-orthodox districts of Jerusalem like Mea She'arim, where local people wear fur hats and the dress of 18th century Poland, there have been cauldrons full of scalding water in the streets in the days before Passover. This makes it easier to carry out the ritnal cleaning of all cooking vessels under kosher rules. People clean out their cars to remove any crumbs of unleavened bread and avoid beer and other drinks made with yeast.

Passover is a moment of deep concern for Jerusalem restaurateurs. Rabbinical inspectors who issue kosher certificates essential for most restaurants in West



The last time they found Christ's tomb ... The supposed discovery by the BBC and Sunday Times of the tomb of Jesus,

Jerusalem - are particularly tough on

those who have left any cooking imple-

ment uncleansed. Last year one restau-

rant was ordered to close for two days

by rabhinical decree when inspectors

found a spoon that had not been prop-

None of this goes down well with the

restaurants, who say the fees charged by

the inspectors eat into their small prof-

its. One owner complained that last year

he was even ordered to remove Christ-

mas trees from outside his restaurant on

the grounds that they were unkosher.

He demanded that the inspectors show him rabbinical authority for their ruling. Nevertheless, a surprising number of

international hrands now carry kosher certificates, including even the saki

served in the Sakura, Jerusalem's best

Japanese restaurant.

erly cleaned.

Juseph and Mary has a precedent in the famed Edwardian thriller When It Was Dark, which General Montgomery once described as among the most important books he had ever read. The plot of the book revolves around the discovery of the tomb of Christ, cleverly faked by a corrupt academic, with a damning dedication by Joseph of Arimathea saying that he had buried Jesus.

The results of the discovery are uniformly disastrous. Anarchy breaks out. Women are commonly assaulted. Churches are vaodalised. The day is only saved by a clean-limbed young curate who persuades the wicked don to confess to the forgery.

The strident nationalism of the book leaves a nasty taste in the month, but it is revealing about Edwardian values when it concludes its litany of disasters consequent to the discovery that Christianity is a fraud by noting, in awed tones, that "Consols fell to 63".

Patrick Cockburn

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A wisp of Easter hope rising

E ighty years ago this weekend, as British and Irish troops fought and died on the Western Front, Irish republicans staged a coup in the centre of Duhlin. "A terrible beauty is born." wrote the poet - how disfigured and ugly Yeats's creature now appears. This Easter, the Irish Republican Army, splintered descendants of the men of 1916, put out a petulant message. Look over your shoulders, you Brits, we are going on planting bombs. But we also want to talk, they say, as long as there are no preconditions and the Government sits on the Ulster Unionists. It's an odd, broken-backed statement, but in it there is a glimmering. GIn 1916, the republican insurgents eventually gave up the struggle, for the good reason that their cause had become hopeless and further bloodshed served no purpose. In 1996 republican terrorists continue to affirm their commitment to violence, despite their political wing having won a place within a process of negotiation about the governance of the north of Ireland.

Except that they do and they don't. Since the bombs six weeks ago a de facto ceasefire has held. We do not know how far this is deliberate, how far incidents may have been thwarted and aborted. Still, the statement published in the Sinn Fein newspaper is worth parsing. This, it seems, is the voice of the IRA controlling group itself. And it says, unambiguously, the negotiating table is "the only place for all the representatives of the Irish people to go". Meanwhile Sir Patrick Mayhew says the allparty talks on Northern Ireland in June would be "immeasurably improved" by the presence of Sinn Fein. At least they sound as if the direction of travel is similar. This weekend the security forces must be extra alert - and make careful use of

the sweeping new powers given them a few days ago. The threat of IRA violence poisons the holiday air. And yet this IRA state-ment may indicate their appreciation of how much would be lost by further attacks.

The gap between Adams' position and the Government's is harn-door wide. Sinn Fein wants cast-iron guarantees that talks will be about what they call the "real issues" - presumably a non-Unionistdominated scheme of government for Northern Ireland. But if the British government committed itself, to the extent of saying that decommissioning weapons was one, but only one, of the issues to be addressed: would that get the ceasefire reinstated? Without a reinstatement, Sinn Fein participation is impermissible.

Consultation ends on the Government's proposals for the electoral framework for the new Northern Ireland forum just after Easter. Then the Government moves to legislate. Between now and then is a time for more speeches like Sir Patrick's in Dublin the other day. As long as the de facto ceasefire holds, the prospect of a for-

mal re-declaration remains tantalising.

Does that leave ground for hope this
Easter? Hope, that the Government in its enthusiasm for peace is prepared to put its House of Commons arithmetic second in order to give Sir Patrick Mayhew his head; hope, that the IRA studies the trajectory of nationalism in the island of Ireland, let alone elsewhere in the advanced world, and acknowledges its own redundancy; hope that would-be republican "martyrs" of 1996 spend a fraction of these next three days measuring themselves not against the mythologised rebels of 1916 hut against the example of the Martyr of the first Easter.



The trees are felled, the tunnels filled in. So much for the "Third Battle of Newbury". We were all primed for a huge not lend itself well to massive popular environmental protest, bigger than demonstrations. With a large area of land Twyford Down, better than the M11. Admittedly the campaigners have managed to delay the road-builders' schedule and send the security bill soaring. But the mamentum of former campaigns seems to have ebbed, and the predicted hoards of protesters from across the country ngyer materialised. What went wrong? Is the anti-road movement running out of steam already?

. We have probably all been guilty of hype. Ever keen to identify great national moods and movements, the media were only too happy to swallow campaigners' predictions about spectacular clashes to come, as the anti-road campaign swelled, in numbers and in passion. What happened was bound to be an anti-climax.

But even in a more soher light, Newbury has not become the national cause célèbre that might have been expected. The plan for the new bypass contains all the classic ingredients for an almighty environmental show-down. The £101m building programme will slash through an area of immense natural beauty. Newbury is also in the prime location for protest politics. Not far from London, Oxford and Brighton, it is easily accessible to the students and southern middle classes who have populated previous demonstrations against roads or animal exports. Yet many of the protesters who struggled out on former occasions never got their boots on for Newbury.

Perhaps this was to be expected. The first stage of the road-building process did for protesters to find the action. The tree fellers, on the other hand, could make incremental progress in one corner after another. Against piecemeal destruction, the only effective obstacles were people who climbed trees, or who had the dedication to plan detailed defence strategies. Compared to such sophistication, the amateur" activists, the day-trippers from Didcot, were bound to feel a little redundant. Disconcerted by both the expertise and the eccentricities of the full-time pro-

testers, the others may have given up. Support may grow again when the tarmac appears. Bulldozers under the summer sun are a more sexy protest proposioon than hacksaws in the winter mud. But there is a serious possibility that the anti-road movement is fragmenting. Committed activists - and there remain hundreds of them in Newbury - have become increasingly specialised. At the same time, incidental campaigners have had the edge ruhbed off their enthusiasm. The new roads programme has been reduced. Even the anger against the Newbury by-pass has been diffused by the widespread claim that the people of Newbury want it,

The anti-road lobby was at its most powerful when it commanded support and commitment across society. Right now it is in danger of becoming a marginalised minority pursuit.



• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Push back the boundaries of debate on voting reform

Sir: As a Liberal Democrat who Sir: Andrew Marr, in his piece on joined the Liberal Party back in the 1950s precisely because it favoured proportional representation I welcome any discussion of the subject.

Andrew Marr ("Changing the chemistry of politics", 2 April) is wrong in one important assess-ment of STV when he says it would require redrawing every constituency boundary. All one needs to do is lump together existing single-member constituencies into multi-member ones, five or six members per enlarged seat being the favoured number, but perhaps not desirable for very rural areas where size might present problems.

Boundarles between present constituencies are often so arbitrary as to be daft, lines drawn on a map to try to create chumps of land with roughly equivalent num-bers of inhabitants without refer-MARTIN KYRLE minutes.

Eastleigh, Hampshire

electoral systems, omits mention of the variation on the list system called the Additional Member System (AMS), reported to have been favoured by Lord Plant's Labour electoral reform com-

mission. Under AMS the majority of members are elected as now, first-past-the-post in single-member constituencies. The Additional Members are found by aggregating each party's vote in a small number of regions formed by humping constituencies together and selecting additional members from the runners-up in the constituencies to produce a Parliamentary memhership roughly reflecting the total party

vote in the region. Some advantages: I. Complicated to describe, simple to operate: the voter, as ence to natural boundaries such as now, puts one cross, and when rivers, limits of built-up areas, all the votes in the region are in, postcodes or directions in which the computer produces the names of the AMs within

constituency link is maintained for the majority of members, hnt in addition there is a regional representation, which should please the Liberal Democrats.

3. Representation is not quite so precisely proportional as under STV, but will get close to it - much more than under the Alternative Vote. 4. Every member will have

commanded a substantial number of votes and none will have come off a central list selected by party hacks.

5. In cast-iron Conservative or Labour seats, electors can safely choose to vote for someone who seems to be a particularly good candidate, but is not of their party, but may get elected.
P A REYNOLDS

(former Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University) Brighton,

Sir: It is good news that the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats look like they are co-

operating over proportional voting. What is bad news is any sug-gestion of a tilt towards the Alter-

native Voting System.
Our party (as well as others like the Green Party) will once again find it disproportionately difficult to secure representation despite the fact that we achieved up to 6 per cent in the seats we contested in the European Elec-

We will hold Robert Maclennan MP (letter, 2 April), and the Liberal Democrats to their pledge to achieve a properly proportional system.

Surely the way forward is for all the political parties in this country to agree to an independent review of the voting system. Just as MPs should agree to an independent review of what they are paid, we Liberals believe they should surely agree to an independent review of the way they get their jobs.

the USSR, passed by an over

whelming majority (with only 50

deputies voting against), reflect

this trend in Russian domestic

politics. Both Russian presiden-

a new "Union".

PAUL MACDONALD The Liberal Party

Saving up for an IVF baby

Sir. Your sympathetic article concerning an accountant who stole £20,000 from her employers to finance IVF treatment ("The baby lottery", 4 April), irritated

Thirteen years ago my hus-band and I were told that our only hope of a family was IVF, paid for privately. We had about £200 in savings and a modest joint income which rarely stretched until the end of the month. However, it struck us that if we had already had a baby; then the three of us would be living on my husband's salary and so we saved everything I carned: It also struck us that if we had a baby, we would be able to spend far less time together as a couple so I took on low-paid evening work and saved what I carned from that. Incredibly, within a year we had saved £9,000, which was enough for six courses of three wonderful children.

A few months ago an elderly friend spent her life savings on having her hip replaced privately because she was in too much pain to endure the NHS waiting list. In a perfect world there would be no waiting lists and IVF would be available free for everyone.

While we wait for the perfect world to arrive might I suggest that childless couples, regardless of their level of income, are in a far better position to save for private treatment than anyone

> SALLY JACKSON Cardiff, South Glamorgan

The science of winning funds Sir: Your editorial "Back in the Sir: The image of the Health Sec- For better or worse, the knack of

retary being in thrall to "scientific masters" (leading article, 30 March) is ridiculous. Scientists do not decide what is done, they merely provide answers to questions. To take an example from my own field, fisheries, what scientists do is answer questions asked by the paymasters, such as how many fish can be safely taken without the risk of the stocks collapsing. The politicians who make the management decisions consistently ignore such answers - as is entirely appro-

priate since they are trying to bal-

ance hiological and socioeco-

nomic factors (which is not to say

they get the balance right!).

The scientists who warned of the link between CID and BSE to take the heavy lorries off their streets. were not ostracised by the "scientific establishment". The fact is that the management structure in government laboratories prevents any work being done unless it is approved by the Government.

being a good scientist these days is not "to ask questions for which it is possible to get an answer but to ask questions for which it is possible to get funding.

2. The important member-

GRAHAM PIERCE Lecturer in Fishery Science University of Aberdeen

Sir: If only the public, politicians and, it would seem, newspaper editors (leading article, 30 March) understood science better, they would better understand the bard truth. It will probally be many years before any real understanding of BSE and its possible links with CJD are, or can be, fully understood. As to the question whether beef is safe, the only truly honest answer is: we just do not know. However, it will be much-maligned science that will give us answers in the end, not its detractors.

GILLIAN SATHANANDAN

Russian superpower stirs anew The 15 March Russian State Duma resolutions on reviving

USSR" (3 April) details the growing trend towards reintegration within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). This trend is not a new phe-

nomenon, as your editorial suggests, but part of an evolution in Russian policy towards the CIS elaborated in a new "Monroe Doctrine" since early 1993 which the West saw fit to ignore or hlame on the need for President Boris Yeltsin to appease nationalist voters during election cam-

Increasingly it seems that Russia's current leaders perceive the strategic tasks of "Union" restoring as more important than domestic reform and integration into the

In the approach to the June Russian presidential elections both leading candidates - Yeltsin and Communist leader Zyuganov

– are competing as to who will
build a new "Union" or former

world community of nations. The capital of the CIS is being moved to a newly constructed building in Moscow in 1998 and all leading posts within the CIS are dominated by Russians.

Soviet Union quickest.

tial candidates see Ukraine as the "jewel in the crown" which would satisfy their ambitions of creating

Despite these dangerous trends the West is still making the same fatal mistake by backing the current Yeltsin leadership as it did in 1991 when it backed then Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Yet the interests of neither the West nor Russia are served by the revival of a new Eurasian empire and military superpower which would be likely to lead to a new Cold War, a new arms race, Russia's repudiation of international treaties (CFE and Start 2) domestic and inter-state conflict within the CIS and the end of reform and democratisa-

tion in Russia. TARAS KUZIO Research Fellow Centre for Russian and East European Studies University of Birmingham

Soft and furry kettle water

Sir. You make reference to "the fur in Lancashire kettles" (leading article; "Gummer needs a watertight plan", I April). As one who has supped North West Water and the best that Bedfordshire has to offer I'm under the impression that fur is what you get in southern kettles but not in those of the Lancashire I grew up in.

Living, as I now do, on the nurthern edge of Derbyshire (North West Water again), exceptional weather hrings peat with the water supply which is clearly visible in the hath, accepted as roughage in the tea pot, but being soft does not fur up my kettle.

M ANI HARRIS New Mills,

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Hunt for tasty turkey eggs

Sir: Judy Allen asks (letter, 3 April) if she is missing out in never eating turkey eggs. Turkey eggs tend to be rather large and flavoury; I am warmly in favour of them. Yes, she is missing out. Infrequently available but worth waiting for; hunt them down. PHILIP O'DONOGHUE

New Barnet, Hertfordshire

Sir. In answer to Judy Allen's inquiry about why we do not eat turkey eggs, one can only wonder if they are being fed to the other species of hirds in the interests of the mass production of meat and eggs. Perhaps that is why we have salmonella in eggs and poultry. The vegans must have a

> JOHN FLACKETT London E6

Sir. Birds have to be more than a year old to have an egg. All turkeys get eaten at Christmas, so they never get old enough to have

> HAROLD STONE Wareham, Dorset

Resurrection survives cynics

Sir: I have followed with interest the story of the possible discovery of an ossuary which may have contained the bones of Jesus and other members of his family (report, I April).

What is hlindingly obvious to me is that if the body of Jesus had lain in a tomh long enough for it to decompose and leave the bones to be collected in this manner then the embarrassed authorities would have had little problem with the disturbing claims of the disciples. All that would have been required would have been the display of the corpse to prove beyond any doubt that Jesus was still well and truly dead.

Sadly there are always cynics looking for sensational stories to disprove the resurrection. They will have to do much better than this. Still the best explanation for the preaching of the resurrection is that the tomh was empty because "he is risen; just as he said!" (Matthew 28:6). The Rev ANDREW McMULLON

Crumlin, Co Antrim

Night train to Milan

Sir: Mr Michael Patterson (letter. 3 April) points out the speed with which one can now get from Milan to London by train. However, a day-long journey with two changes does not equal the convenience of the night services we once enjoyed. Many of us regret the loss of the sleeper train from Calais to Milan, via Basel, with carriages on to Venice or Florence, which seems to have quite disappeared. Can we not have this back again - but now from Waterloo?

JOHN MILLS London NW8

Let's beef up the news about mad cows electricity pylons. Do you remember this early 1996 scare? It was said that Earlier this year I was rung up by Paul Barker, distinguished exeditor of New Society, who told me people who lived under or near pylons were more liable to contract certain diseases. It was taken quite

that a new version of Gulliver's Travels was being shown on Channel 4 over Easter. "That's good," I said. And furthermore, he had been

asked to edit a booklet to go along with it, illustrating the way our modern world corresponded to Swift's vision of things.
"Nice one," I said. So he wanted me to write a short piece on one aspect of Gulliver's Travels. Namely, on Gulliver's dis-

covery, at one of his ports of call, that when a nation has learnt a great deal about the world it lives in, it does not necessarily make them happier about the world "I don't quite see..."

Well, explained Barker patiently, we pride ourselves on being knowledgeahte in this century, but has it made us more or tess frightened of the future? Are we more or less susceptible to scares and panics?
"Ah. You mean...?"

yet happened. He just meant what-

Yes. That sort of thing."



edge to scare ourselves. When I go down to write the piece, I listed all the scares I could think of off-hand. It was an effortless list to write. Salt, hutter. rain forests, ozone layer, nuclear aecidents, Aids, herpes, Rupert Murdoch, being run over by a police car...
I did. as a matter of fact, write

down "Mad Cow disease" on the list, but only as a scare that was now due to pass into history. And I may well have been right. I cannot get out of my mind the voice of one farmer on a Radio 4 phone-in saying that if we were going to have a BSE panic, we should have had it in 1990 when things were at their worst. Things had been unproving ever since. He really couldn't see the point of having a

He did not, as a matter of fact, mean the BSE scare. That had not BSE panic now. Actually, the example I raised, in the Channel 4 piece, of the latest scare to hit the public, was that of effects. We know all this for sure. Yet ever the last scare was. But he was right. We do tend to use our knowl-

seriously at the time, though it has faded from the headlines since then. I don't suppose anyone has done any studies of endangered cows and their proximity to pylons in fields, have they? That would make a nice little

(Incidentally, when the rumour abont the pylons came out, my wife said, "That's curious". I asked her why. Well, she said, she had worked on a medical video a year or two before, and when she asked the doctors concerned for an example of a madcap idea held by the public, they both pointed to the widespread rural belief that living near pylons affected you and laughed at the very

What is odd about all this is not that we are afraid of things revealed to us by scientists and statisticians. The odd thing is that we are NOT afraid of the proven dangers. We know that bad diet gives us cancer. We know that smoking kills us. We know that cars kill us. We know that Chernobyl (as well as certain popular

we don't have eigarette or car or fried food panies.

In the aftermath of the Dunblane

tragedy nobody pointed out that about as many children die every day or two on the roads as are killed in Dunblane once in history; that cars are a far worse killer than guns. We know all this, so we don't panic. It's only the unknown that gives us the real jitters. Aids was far more scary when it was a mystery killier than it

And at the moment BSE is a mystery killer, and we are all scared of it and we are running around demanding sacrifices, like medieval crowds asking for witches to be burnt. You hear experts every day on the media, saying that the important thing is not to cure BSE or CJD, but to restore public confidence, which can only he done by killing cows, a trick which didn't work for Aaron when Moses was up the mountain getting the Ten Commandments, and won't work

If what I say is true, and we only fear the unknown, then the nnly answer is to prove beyond doubt that BSE CAN affect humans. Then we can all confidently get back to eating beef, as we have got back to smoking, drinking, driving cars and using

Our trust in biotechnology and faith in the quick fix expose our ignorance – and leave us vulnerable

Unnoticed beneath the mounds of mad cows last week was a strange gists took an excessively simple-minded view of the workings of nature and we coincidence. While ministers struggled with the nuances of scientific truth and the voter appeal of beef burning, a small document crept quietly out of the Prime Minister's office. This document was also about science and rogue fragments of organic chemistry. But it was not about cows, it was about GMOsgenetically modified organisms.

To understand the full resonance of this coincidence it is necessary to understand what the mad cow story is really about. It is about a group of people who, like the Bourbons, remember everything and learn nothing. Who exactly these people are I don't know, but they are evidently technologists and scientists of some kind. What they did was feed sheep to cows just as they previously fed hens to hens. As a result they probably transferred the malevolent prion that causes BSE and CJD across the species barrier first to cows and then to us. This was a stupid thing to do

because, as anybody with any biological knowledge could have told them, creating such a dietary closed circuit would instantly magnify any risk fac-tors. It was doubly stupid because it echoed a mistake made by an earlier generation of technologists who blithely killed insects while assuring the world that the amounts involved were too small to affect other creatures.In fact, they simply did not understand the system with which they were tinkering - the DDT also killed birds because of the concentrating effects of the food chain, With

all paid the price.

Now back to GMOs. Ever since the early 1970s we have been able to manipulate DNA and thereby change the genetic structure of living creatures. When this first hecame a possibility the scientists panicked and imposed a moratorium on all recombinant DNA experiments. Biological arreiety swept through the culture: rogue organisms -"superbugs" - might escape from the lab, devastating crops or people. Michael Crichton, inevitably, wrote a paranoid movie - The Andromeda Strain - about the possibility. Once released these organisms could never be recaptured, spreading through the bios-

phere – raging, destructive mutants.
But nothing happened and the biological anxiety subsided. The original analysis of the biologists appeared to be correct – statistically, artificial modifications around by highly artificial modifications around by highly artificial modifications around the highly artificial modifications. ifications would be highly unlikely to result in any organism that could compete in the wild. Natural selection over billions of years has produced a robust, competitive ecology. The chances of a released GMO being competitively superior to nature's products was van-ishingly remote. There was a risk but

it was too small to quantify.

Since theo hiological knowledge has increased geometrically. Agriculture is being transformed by genetic engineering. Plants and animals ember the cloned sheep - have had their genotypes adjusted to suit human demands. Viruses and hactetraining effects of the food chain. With both BSE and DDT eager technolo- or target disease. And, as the hiolo-



BRYAN APPLEYARD

A little biological knowledge can be a very dangerous thing

gists, hacked by vast sums of money, close io on the total human genome, we have become the next in line.

The Anglo-American view of this has been straightforwardly optimistic - the dangers were exaggerated, the possible benefits are vast. In Europe, however, there has been caution. In Germany genetics is viewed with intense suspicion. There Nazism provided a hrutal demonstration of how genetic theory could become cugenic practice. When Hitler was in prison his primary reading matter was a text book of genetics. It was a book that was wrong in almost every respect, but it provided convenient justification for mass murder.

As a result, EU genetic law has been substantially more cautious than American, Now British environmentalists, catching up with their European colleagues, have begun to take an interest. The Government Panel on Sustainable Development, chaired by Sir Crispin Tickell and established by John Major, reported in January and called for a conference to establish interoational standards to control the release of GMOs. Last week's document was the Government's response.

The response is remarkable hecause, although it dispenses the usual flannel about things being pretty much OK as they are, it also accepts the panel's call to set up a conference within the next 12 months on possible hiotechnological hazards. This would aim for international agreement on the control of GMOs.

This is a startling commitment which indicates a certain admirable seriousness within the Government about biotechnology. The response was certainly written well before BSE took off as an issue. So clearly, somewhere in Whitehall, somebody was thinking seriously about biology before the cows drove us mad.

Seriousness in this area is welcome because BSE has highlighted some-thing we should have known - that a litthe hiological knowledge is a very dan-gerous thing. And, when set against the fabulous complexity of the living world, the sum total of all human biological knowledge remains very small indeed. We have acquired ingenious methods for manipulating the code of life, hut, beyond that, our ignorance is vast. In Darwin biology may have had its Galileo, but it has yet to have its Newton or Einstein. This places us in a dangerous phase of scientific history. The eerie, mechanical simplicity of the DNA molecule resonates in our imag-

inations, tempting us to think that the whole of life is also simple. Meanwhile, money and hubris conspire to convince us we can do more than we can. And the naive contemporary belief in the quick fix, the magic bullet, the wonder drug leads us to place uncritical faith in the claims of the biologists. Even they have grown nervous at this state of affairs. Harold Varmus, the head of the National Institutes of Health in Washington, recently told geneticists to stop making inflated claims for gene therapy - it was giving science a had name and

raising false hopes in the desperately ill. The reality is that living systems have revealed themselves as far more complex, subtle and interdependent than we could ever have imagined. And it is the interdependence that we know least about. In the last paragraph of On the Origin of the Species Darwin wrote in wonder of "an entangled bank" in which plants, birds, insects, worms lived in incalculably complex interaction. Now we could add billions of viruses and bacteria to Darwin's list, we could talk of DNA of which Darwin knew nothing - but we could not claim to be any nearer penetrating all the mysteries of even that humble ecology.

Yet in ignorance we apply DDT, pre-scribe thalidomide or turn farm animals into cannibals. Similarly - though, so far, not catastrophically - we release GMOs to engineer the living world. But in the light of what we now know the sooth-ing statistical faith of the scientists in the 1970s looks profoundly unconvincing. Our ignorance of living systems has been exposed once too often. Biological anxiety is back, this time for good.

At long last, the safe tea cosy

The home is littered with potential perils but now there is good news for tea drinkers, says William Hartston

Just as you thought it was safe sipbons, chopsticks, mincers and pressurised beer taps, none of which injured anybody. Department of Trade and Industry has published its report on accidents in the

The tables provide compelling evidence that mad cows are far from being the only hazard for today's chefs and gourmets. Every accidental death in 1994 is solemnly reported and elassified along with every acci-dent that led to a visit to any of 18 selected hospitals.

The room in which the accident occurred, the parts of the body injured and the household objects involved are all meticulously recorded, with the victim allowed to incriminate a number of different objects in a single accideot.

So the four people injured by Christmas iree light sets could he exactly the same as the four injured by their Walkmans or persooal stereos, and might even be included in the figure of six listed under hidet". One can easily see the folly of listening to music while trying to install Christmas lights round your hidet. One gyration too many to the beat of the music, your hand slips, a sudden jet of water and instant electrocution.

Here are some more dan-gerous objects with their injury

pillow case, 2; mangle on washing machine, 3; coal scuttle, 6; hammock, 17; watering can, 21; bean bag, 48; party balloon, 56; clothes basket, 116.

In the garden, the watering can is exactly as dangerous as the trowel, though only half as dangerous as a rake. All these, however, are models of safety compared with the wheelbarrow (85), flowerpot (125) and garden fork (143). For people aged between 15

and 64, however, the kitchen is the most dangerous room in the house, followed by the stairs, the living or dining room, and the bedroom, in that order. Food and drink alone led to 359 deaths in 1992, with kitchen utensils killing another 23. Compared with these rates of zero in 1994. Since one of the carnage, stationery and writing equipment, resulting in only four deaths, was not to be feared. Luggage killed no one

The non-fatal accident rates break down the risks of every-day kitchen life into finer detail: kitchen scales, 2; weights for scales, 3; wok, 4; strainer, 5; drinking straw, 11; coffee pot, 17; toaster, 18; teapot, 66;

refrigerator, 185. The safest items were soda

These figures must cast a shadow over last week's reports that tea-drinkers are less likely to suffer strokes than coffee drinkers. The risk of a stroke must now be balanced out against the risks of injury from your teapot and strainer. We ought also to be told how many of the eight accidents involving unspecified kitchen equipment" were caused by teabags which, incomprehensibly, have

no category of their own.

The problem with interpreting these figures is that they give us no true basis for comparison. Is tea-drinking more

For people aged 15 to 64 the kitchen is the most dangerous room in the house

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dangerous than coffee-drinking because 66 people were hurt by teapots and only 17 by coffee pois? Or are the statistics simply a reflection of the greater numbers of teapots around our homes? To make valid judge-ments, we need tables of figures of accideots per teapot and per coffee pot.

Such examples are frivolous, of course, but how should we view the news that 12,762 people were treated for accidents incurred while playing a ball game with no stick, while only 2,159 were hurt in ball games with sticks and only 166 at gymnastics? Should we immediately encourage our children away from the football field on to the cricket pitch and vaulting horse?

To draw any valid conclusions, we need to know bow many people are involved in each of the activities concerned.

There is, however, some final good news for tea drinkers. The number of injuries associated with tea cosies bas dropped from three in 1993 to main points in publishing these tial areas of improvement in product safety, the elimination of tea cosy accidents could be seen as a vindication of the procedure. Having been alerted to the danger of the tea cosy in 1993. British designers once again demonstrated their strengths and rose to the challenge. They were inspired to create the world's first perfectly safe cosy.

The empire strikes back

Both Boris Yeltsin and his Communist rivals have expansion on their minds, writes Geoffrey Hosking

When the Soviet Union fell apart nearly five years ago its disintegration was much more complete than Boris Yeltsin anticipated. As a result, some 25 million Russians found themselves inhabitants of foreign countries, some of them without citizens' rights or suffering violence from vengeful neighbours. Roughly 2 milion of them have since decided to Séave and seek shelter in their "homeland", the Russian Federation, which already has a desperate housing shortage and growing unemployment, and is therefore not especially keen to take

Even Russians inside the Russian Federation bave suffered. Imagine having to go through customs and mother in Cardiff or Glasgow, and you will understand why many of them resent the dissolution of the USSR.

This is the main reason why it has been difficult for Russia to renounce the heritage of empire and become a nation-state among other nationstates. Most Russians still carry around a mental map of the Soviet Union in their heads. "Russian imperialists" are people like you and me, who want to visit their elderly mothers, Yeltsin began his career by trying to make Russia a nation-state, but he has found himself steadily drifting hack towards an imperial posture, most markedly in his violent lurch into Chechnia in December 1994.

In the course of the current election campaign, the Communists have repeatedly played on the theme of the collapse of the Union. Their leader, Gennadii Ziuganov, asserts: "For the first time in their history, the Russian people have hecome a divided people.... The Fatherland means a community. But people cannot travel to their relatives or friends for weddings or even funerals."

On 17 March, the Communists persuaded the Russian parliament, the Duma, to pass a resolution condemning the Belovezh accords of December 1991, which formally dissolved the Soviet Union and replaced it with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The resolution amounts to a statement that the USSR still legally exists.

The Duma's move provoked a wave of protest, both from President Yettsin and from other ex-Soviet republics. Yettsin called it "scandalous" and "unconstitutional" and claimed it undermined the legal standing of all Russian institutions, including the Duma itself. One deputy, half in jest, suggested the Duma dissolve itself and immediately reconvene the old USSR

offers.

Supreme Soviet. If one disregards the rhetoric for a moment, bowever, then much of the difference between Yeltsin and the Communists vanishes. To begin with, if



Back in the USSR? Whoever wins the June elections, Russ

the Communists came to power, what would they actually do to restore the Soviet Union? It cannot be recreated by force, certainly not by the Russian army in its present condition. And what can he achieved by diplomacy and persuasion is already being done by the present regime. Yeltsin has explicitly stated that he hopes the ex-Soviet republics will eventually form a "confederation". So, whether he or Ziuganov wins the presidential clectioo in June, Russia will be aiming to strengthen the ties between most of

the ex-Soviet republics. The forum for their cooperation has so far been the CIS, but it has proved far too loose for Russia. Its agreements resemble a long à la carte menu, from which members choose their dishes at will. It has no common citizenship and few of its documents are signed by all member states. By comparison, the European Union seems a model of harmony and consensus.

All the same, some of the republics would actively welcome renewed Russian influence and help. They have found the outside world a less welcoming place than they anticipated. They have discovered that their products are less marketable in the non-Soviet world than they had hoped, so they are quietly resuming some of the

old Soviet economic ties, hoping for cheap fuel and raw materials from Russia. Russia is definitely the senior partner in these arrangements, because it commands such huge resources. Symbolically the CIS recently announced that its headquarters would move

In the military sense, the CIS is also a very insubstantial alliance. It has no political committee or even a joint command. Most important of all,

from Minsk to Moscow.

Russian imperialists are people like us who want to visit their elderly mothers

Ukraine has never become a member. Russia tends to take the main decisions: it has used its military strength to persuade Georgia and Armenia to accept Russian military bases. Many see the CIS security treaty as a thinly disguised instrument of renewed Russian domination. No doubt that is why Ukraine has never joined it.

moving to form a kind of inner core. Closest of all are Russia and Belorussia, which are coordinating their defence and foreign policy, and have signed a treaty which stops only just short of full unioo. Together with Kazakhstan aod Kyrgyzstao, they have agreed to dismantle customs barriers and to harmonise their economic, military and social policies. Meanwhile Tajikistan continues to depend on the Russian army to defend its borders.

There are good historical reasons for these republics to feel the need of closer relations with Russia. Belorussia has never really felt itself to be a aeparate nation and Kazakhstan has almost as many Russian citizens as it has Kazakh ones, while Kyrgyzstan is peculiarly dependent on its Russian specialists and professional staffs. Together they seem likely to form a kind of CIS inner core which might actually become a confederation, not unlike the model Gorbachev had in mind when in the last months of 1991 he fought to save the USSR by persuading its members to sign a new union treaty.

The other Central Asian and Caucasian republics feel less close to Rus-Dissatisfied with the looseness of sia, and will probably want to preserve the CIS, some ex-Soviet republics are a more distinct identity. But they will

oeed strategic backing and strong economic ties with Russia for the foreseeable future, and Russia has shown in the past that it is prepared to exploit these needs to assert its

hegemony.

The great stumbling block is Ukraine, where opinion is sharply divided. The population of the west-ern regions would hitterly resist any rapprochement with Russia. The inhabitants of Crimea and the Donbass, on the other hand, would warmly endorse ctoser relations, and in the long run may prove difficult to govern from Kiev without them. Several millioo of them are Russian, and even many of those who are described in their passports as Ukrainian nevertheless identify with Russia or the Soviet Union as a whole.

These are the realities that would face either President Yeltsin or President Ziuganov. Their mutual denunciations are actually electoral rhetoric. In reality both are moving towards a quiet but determined reassertion of Russian imperial influence.

The writer is Professor of Russian History at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London. He gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Domitilla Sagramoso.



The solution he's drinking could save his life. And it only costs 10p.

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There is persuasive new evidence that hreast cancer can be beaten. Although it kills more women than any other malignancy, deaths from breast cancer are falling, down in 1993 by 10 per cent in England and Wales, compared with 1985-89.

Why should this be? Much of the answer is because of earlier diagnosis and more effective treatment. As breast cancers grow, so does their erapacity to spread and kill. Picking up invasive cancers by mammographic screening, now on offer to all women aged 50-64, detects cancers when they are smaller and curable. It is too early to attribute changes in Britain to screening but within two to three years a further drop in mortality will

How to kill breast cancer

become apparent as a result of the UK national programme.

More women are being diagnosed with small breast cancers because they are aware that early diagnosis can be life-saving and that mastectomy can usually be avoided. Treatment has improved, because those at risk of recurrence are now given therapy in the form of hormone treatment or chemotherapy, or a combination. This saves thousands of lives worldwide

But there are still too many women dving unnecessarily. Screening is not ANOTHER VIEW

Ian Fentiman reaching enough women at risk. Almost 50 per of breast cancer cases are over 65 when diagnosed and yet

women of this age are not called routinely for screening mammography. Extending the age limit to 80 could save 1,500 lives per year in Britain. Another approach is to identify those at risk. The cloning of the

breast cancer susceptibility genes, BRCA-1 and BRCA-22, will enable us to detect women who have inherited this mutation and who have an 80 per cent lifetime chance of developing the disease. We must then tackle the

Prevention is better than surgery. Changes in lifestyle - exercise, dietary modification, food additives and hormonal modifications - all need to be tested in a rigorous scientific manner. We know from results of using tamoxifen therapy that this reduces the recurrence of cancer and also reduces

by 40 per cent the probability of a can-cer developing in the other breast. One of the clearest messages about treatment of hreast cancer is that a

team approach involving surgeon. pathologist, oncologist, radiologist and psychiatrist is fundamental. This is the situation that exists in specialised centres and there is mounting evidence that their patients have better survival. Lives should not be endangered by lack of expert management of this potentially curable

The writer is Consultant Surgeon, Imperial Cancer Research Fund Clinical Oncology Unit, Guy's Hospital, Lon-

Suppliers seek suspension of British Gas penalties



Industrial Correspondent

Seven large gas supply compa-nies have complained to Ofgas, the industry watchdog, over the alleged failure of the system which since 1 March has been balancing gas supply and de-mand. The companies accuse British Gas, which operates the so-called Network Code, of chronic data deficiency and

failure of information flows". The companies, which in-clude North Sea producers and large business suppliers such as Alliance Gas, face penalties which could amount to millions of pounds a month - paid to British Gas - for failing to meet obligations to supply the right amount of gas into the pipeline system to meet their customers' demands.

The letter to Clare Spottiswoode, director general of Of-gas, attacks the "unacceptable and unqualified risks" to which they believe they are being ex-posed and calls for the suspension of any penalty payments until the problem is sorted out.

A spokesman for Alliance Gas said that British Gas Transco - the part of the com-pany responsible for the Network Code - can underestimate or overestimate the amount of gas needed by 15 per cent.

There is simply a very large discrepancy between what shippers

Transco calculates we must put n," he said.

The complaint comes at an embarrassing time for the Gov-erament, which is introducing competition in domestic gas supply in the South-west from 29 April British Gas's rivals mainly supply husinesses at present but the problem with the Network Code could mush-room once hundreds of thousands of households have the ability to switch away from British Gas.

Ian Powe, director of the Gas Consumers Council, said: "It's the same gas and the same Network Code - and the load-

know that they must put in to balancing problems are poten-samers. Ofgas is keen to avoid and we just want things to run achieve halance and what tially much higger."

A superconductor of the Office Office

A spokesman for Transco said that it had heard the shippers' views at a meeting yes-terday and would look again at its calculations next week.

Separately, Ofgas is poised to launch a campaign warning customers in the South-west of the dangers of aggressive doorstep seiling by rivals to British Gas.

South Western Electricity's gas marketing arm and Calor-Tex, a joint venture between Texaco and Calor Gas, have already been heavily criticised by the Gas Consumers Council for had practice in marketing their services to domestic conas 29 April approaches.

Ofgas licenses new gas supliers but its powers under the Gas Act do not extend to mar-keting technniques. However, the watchdog, which has dis-cussed the issue with the Office of Fair Trading and the GCC, is concerned that the problem will hamper the successful start of domestic competition by putting people off alternative suppliers and "leaving a had taste in the mouth".

An Ofgas source said: "No one wants competition to get off to a sleazy start. It is not in the interests of competition to have people hoodwinked in this way

An important aim of the Ofgas drive will be to tell people that they are entitled to a sev-en-day "cooling off" period in which they can opt out of a con-tract signed as a result of an unsolicited approach. The watchdog will also warn through

leaflets and local information services that doorstep sellers are trained to gain consumers' confidence and are unwilling to take no for an answer. The Ofgas source said the message is to be prepared and to remember that you can change your mind".

The authorities received more than 150 complaints

Tunnel 'ahead' of ferries as duty-free sales rise

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Channel tunnel operator Eu-rotunnel claimed yesterday to be winning the war with the ferry companies after reporting that passenger figures in March rose 31 per cent.

The debt-laden company said its duty-free price cuts were behind the rise, though ferry operator P&O hit back with its own figures also showing a hig rise in passengers.

The rare piece of good news shares 3p to 66p, after the price had hit several new lows in the past weeks. P&O fell 5p to 516p. Analysts said that Eurotun-

nel's commercial success was no longer in doubt and that operating revenues would continue

However, the cash being gea-erated was insignificant against the £8bn of debts, currently the subject of refinancing talks with Eurotunnel's 225 banks. Eurotunnel said the increase

in passengers on its Le Shuttle was due in part to its duty-free price cuts, which the company estimates has brought in 20 per cent additional traffic.

Sir Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel co-chairman, has been incensed by what he claims is the ferry companies' ability to use on-board duty-free sales as

Euroninnel's price cuts were an attempt to stop the attraction of ferry companies' booze cruises, a strategy the Channel nunnel operator says is working. The company is forecasting that it will carry up to 150,000 passengers in the four days over the crucial Easter boliday.

P&O rejected Eurotunnel's claims, producing figures for last a weekend that showed vehicles numbers up 26 per cent and passengers up 10 per cent on its Dover-Calais route. "These figures stream for themselves." ures speak for themselves," a spokeswoman said. "We are

increasing our business as well." First-quarter Le Sbuttle tourist traffic figures were up first quarter of 1995, as Eurotunnel increased capacity. An increase of I2I per cent was achieved over the same period for Le Shuttle Freight. Eurotunnel said the record figures for March were proof of the growing strength of Le Shuttle.

Auditors alerted Woolwich board over the weekend

NIC CICUTII

Donald Kirkham, the retired Woolwich chief executive, was called on to take the belm again two days before David Robinson, his successor, was ousted on Tuesday for alleged financial ir-regularities, it emerged yester-

Mr Kirkham was contacted on Sunday morning at his home by Sir Brian Jenkins, the Woolwich chairman, and told there was a possibility Mr Robinson, who was still on holiday in Barbados, might be required to resign.

The former chief executive indicated that he would he prepared to step back into his former role in the event of Mr Robinson's departure. Two days later, in Mr Robin-

son's absence, a Woolwich board meeting was given details of the allegations concerning him, together with his replies. Mr Robinson resigned that aflernoon and Mr Kirkham immediately stepped in as interim chief executive.

the society moved to quell fears that its planned £3bn de-mutualisation had been derailed by the events of the past week. Sir Brian said: "We are still

same today as it was a week ago. "Our strategy and objectives are completely unchanged. We propose to move forward in ex-

actly the same way as we have always intended." Sir Brian, a former Lord mayor of London and top City accountant, said that in the aftermath of Mr Robinson's departure, meetings have been held with all senior staff to inform them of events and de-

termine the way forward. The mood was extremely positive, he claimed, and the flotation planned for August next year was still on course. A permanent successor to Mr

Robinson would be appointed "shortly". Sir Brian added: "We bave been extremely encouraged at the very high quality of candidates, both internal and external, who have put their names forward in the past few

Mr Robinson's departure follows allegations that he misused society facilities, including work parture emerged yesterday as £450,000 home in Brasted, Kent, and sanctioned the unauthorised use of a Land Rover for his

Sources claim that other unauthorised expenses may also on course. This event has no ef- have been incurred. Mr Robinfect on the business at all. The son was able to sign off his own

Woolwich is essentially the expense sheet, a situation described by one source as "not unusual" for senior executives

in most corporations.
It is understood that an internal audit revealed that some of the questioned expenses took place prior to Mr Robin-son's appointment as chief executive in January.

The internal audit was set in motion after several initially isolated matters seemed to form a

The auditor took his report to Maurice Crichton, a board member and chairman of the audit committee, before the weekend. Mr Crichton was sufficiently worried to contact Sir Brian at his home, in south-east London, on Saturday morning.

The chairman invited Lord Borrie and John fforde, two other board members, to a meeting at his bouse on Sunday, to bear the details. It was decided that Mr Robinson must be summoned to explain what had happened. Mr Kirkham was also contacted at his home. He is be-Whatever you want me to do, I will of course do."

At Sir Brian's home on Monday, Mr Rohinson was confronted with the allegations, in the presence of his lawyer and one from the Woolwich. He firmly denied all the allegations.



Sir Brian Jenkins: Contacted on Saturday morning by the chairman of Wootwich's audit committee

Bristol & West ponders flotation

Bristol & West Building Soci- cision by developments among UK, yesterday signalled that it was preparing to abandon mu-tuality and follow the flood of societies moving towards plc status, writes Nic Cicutti.

One senior executive at Bris-"considering all options". These included mutuality, but there was "no guarantee" that Bristol & West would remain so beyond next week.

Bristol & West executives have long beld the view that they would be influenced in any de- virtually every big society, in-

ety, the ninth-largest in the other societies, including Alliance & Leicester, succumb whether they were retaining. their own mutuality, who they were merging with or being taken over by and the timing. which might determine a price for selling to a potential bidder.

move to abandon mutual status follows plans by Northern Rock, the North-east society, to seek a £1bn listing on the Stock Ex-

change next year.
Northern Rock's plans are the latest in a long line that bas seen

cluding Halifax, Woolwich and to rivals or seek to float on the stock market.

mighl he worth some £800m. Banking analysts were yesterday unclear whether the so-

ciety's plans involved a listing on its own or whether it was in takeover lalks with another, larger institution.

A merger with a similar-

sized society, such as Birmingham Midshires, prior to flotation was not ruled out.

tock market.

One analyst, who refused to
Bristol & West has about 1.2 be named, said: "It is one thing. million savings accounts and about 200,000 mortgage bor- alone. It is well run, with a domrowers. Some experts believe inant presence in the Northit had no choice but to de-mutualise and the five-year protection against being taken over if it floats would give it breath-ing space. But B&W is differ-ent. In the past, it has been burdened by debt and is still not very focused."

BA loses award of quality standard

British Airways has suffered an emharrassing and potentially costly blow after the British Standards Institute withdrew the quality accreditation for its Heathrow cargo business writes Michael Harrison. The move followed a two-

day audit by BSI inspectors which brought to light a series of weaknesses in management and control systems at the airport. The inspectors are under-

stood to have discovered that goods were being mislocated or incorrectly documented and that BA, headed by Robert Ayling, was failing to put cor-rective measures in place following customer complaints. BAs total cargo business is

worth £518m a year and in 1995 it handled 666,000 tonnes of freight, making it by far the higgest haulier of freight by air in the UK.



tion - known as ISO 9002 - had been withdrawn from BA hut would not comment specifically on the case.

However, she added: "There would have had to be some major non-conformities in BA's procedure for us to have taken this action. It is not good for business because it shows that the company is not adhering to high levels of quality."

A BA spokesman told the specialist trade magazine

ISO standard within six months.

We are taking our husiness through a significant change programme and we are experiencing similar problems to other major organisations which have undertaken this level of process re-engineering," the spokesman

"This, coupled with the high volume of cargo we are handling through an outdated facility has obviously had an Aetna Life and Casualty's impact on our performance." \$8.9bn purchase of US Health-

£77bn takeover deals point to a record 1996

JOHN SHEPHERD **Business New Editor**

Records for takeovers and mergers on both sides of the Atlantic are set to be broken again this year. More than \$109hn (£71hn) of deals were struck in the US and almost £6bn worth of takeovers were completed in the UK in the first quarter of 1996.

The frenetic activity in the US this week, which saw almost \$36m of deals struck, has silenced even the strongest cynics on Wall Street.

"We're in a cycle where everyone is convinced that binger is hetter," Mort Pierce, an attorney specialising in mergers at the law firm of Dewey Bal-

The second quarter of the year began with a hang on Monday when three block-huster deals were announced within a few hours of each other. They were SBC Communications' \$23.8bn acquisition of Pacific Telesis Group,

care, and Allegheny Ludium's problems at SBC Warburg." \$3.2bn pact to huy Teledyne. While takeover activity in the UK pales into comparison with that in the US, there are strong signs that 1996 will be a recordhreaking year.

Philip Healey, editor of Acquisitions Monthly, said: "It was evident at the end of the first quarter when the £8.8hn total value of UK deals contrasted with the £15.8hn, which included the £9.1hn Glazo Welcome deal, that only one mega-deal would be needed during the remaining nine months to put 1996 in reach of 1995's all-time high."

He added that "that now looks a distinct possibility with BT and Cable & Wireless heading towards a £35bn merger.
Top adviser on UK deals this

year is UBS, which completed five deals worth £4.4bn in the first quarter of 1996. Mr Healey said: "It will be interesting to see whether UBS will hold leading positions in the league tables in the months ahead and, if it does, whether this will be a result of it capitalising on the continuing

On Wall Street, dealers are convinced that many more deals are on the way, especially in the telecommunications sector, where recent federal legislation has broken down previous harriers to corporate combina-

"The pace is as heavy as it was last year. It might even be heavier, especially in the large deal area," Don Smith, merger expert at Los Angeles-based in-vestment bank Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin, said. There were widespread mar-

ket rumours this week of more big deals being imminent. Speculation surrounded Bally Entertainment Corp, which was viewed as a possible target of Hilton Hotels Corporation or ITT. The three firms have de-clined comment. The hurst of merger activity this week came even as Wall Street was still asessing record first-quarter data.

Another indication that the

pace is unlikely to slow came this week from Lehman Brothers Holdings, which announced a shuffling of its top officers.

13 executives on board US jet in Croatia

DAVID USBORNE New York

As Washington grieved the loss of Ron Brown, the US Com-merce Secretary, in Wednesday's crash of a US airforce jet in Croatia, corporate America was similarly in shock yesterday over the loss on board of 13 senior executives from companies that included AT&T and the US unit of ABB Asea Brown Boveri. The men, mostly in their fifties and from the highest echelons of their companies, were accompanying Mr Brown on a meticulously planned trade mission to the Balkans aimed at giving American companies a head start on contracts to assist in the rebuilding of the re-

gion's ravaged infrastructure. The tragedy was expected to spur many companies to reconsider their own safety guidelines for allowing executives to fly around the world. Many US corporations already forbid more than a small number of their managers to fly at the same time on a single plane.
The crash stands out because

it killed executives from so many different companies. There have been aviation accidents in recent years that have hit individual companies, such as the deaths of Frank Wells, of Walt Disney in 1994, and of three executives working for Donald Trump in 1989.

As news of the disaster reached the US on Wednesday, there was confusion for a while as to who exactly had been among the passengers. There were at least two cases of executives who were meant to take the flight but did not.

The youngest of those from the husiness world who perished was Paul Cushman, 35, who was appointed two years ago as the chief executive of the international division of Riggs Bank, based in Washington DC.

The AT&T executive was named as Walter Murphy, 52, who was vice president of global sales for the company's submarine division. Mr Murphy was one of AT&T's most experienced employees in rebuilding telephone communications systems almost from scratch. Robert Donovan, 54, was

president and chief executive of the Connecticut-hased US subsidiary of ABB of Sweden, which is expected to he involved in huilding new powergenerating plans in Bosnia and Croatia. Mr Donovan was also a veteran of the Vietnam war. Leonard Pieroni, 57, was

resident and chief executive of the Parsons Corporation, one of America's largest engineering design companies, hased in Pasadena, California. Parsons was heavily involved in Kuwait after the Gulf War. Also on board was Donald

Terner, 56, president of the Bridge Housing Corporation, well-known in America for its work in huilding low-cost hous-ing. Paying tribute 10 Mr Tern-er. Senator Dianne Feinstein said he was a "legend in San Francisco and California for his innovations in the development of affordable housing".

Among others who lost their lives was Robert Whittaker, 48,

chairman of the Foster Wheeler Corporation, which makes energy equipment; Claudio Elia, 53. chairman of Water Technologies Corporation; and John Scoville, 64, chairman of the

Harza Engineering Company.
There were also several senior members from the Commerce Department, including an assistant secretary, Charles Meissner, and a journalist covering the mission. He was Nathaniel Nash, of the New York Times.

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CURRENCIES

'During the boom of the 1980s, housing was a one-way bet and buyers snapped up properties in the certain knowledge that the value of their investment would rise. in the cautious 1990s the recovery is much

more fragmented'

A housing recovery, but not as we know it I months to February compared with a year ago will have come as a jolt to ministers and

home-owners alike. Everyone thought we had finally begun to see the beginnings of a new dawn in the property market. But before you draw the blinds, make one last calculation of your negative equity and wander into the library with a glass of whisky and a loaded revolver, take heart. The decline in starts can be explained in large measure by the particularly bad weather this winter and there is every expec-

tation that the housebuilding industry will begin to pick up in the next two months.

Who, in any case, would bet nn nne set of statistics against the instincts of a wily old bird like Sir Laurie Barratt who bas decided to double the number of bomes he is building between now and the end of the century. The hasis for this optimism is reasonably founded. House prices have risen for eight straight months and should manage a 2% increase for 1996, mortgage rates are at their lowest for 30 years and albeit modest tax cuts

are helping top up the feel better factor.

Job insecurity and the savaging bouse prices have taken for the last six years are undoubtedly drag factors. But although the negative equity trap is wide, it is also shallow, meaning that it would only take a modest recovery in prices to lift the beads nf many homeowners above water.

Activity in the housing market is undoubt-edly on the increase with the Royal Institute

The slump in housing starts in the three months to February compared with a year of the slump in housing starts in the three of Chartered Surveyors reporting a 10% rise in viewings and valuations this year. What this has not yet fed through to is a com
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What the slump in housing starts in the three of Chartered Surveyors reporting a 10% rise in viewings and valuations this year. What this has not yet fed through to is a commensurate jump in actual transactions. Nor is it necessarily likely to. If we are seeing a housing recovery at last, it is one which dif-

fers fundamentally from those of the past.
During the boom of the 1980s housing was a one way bet and buyers snapped up properties indiscriminately in the certain knowledge that the value of their investment would rise. In the cautious 1990s, the recovery in the market is more fragmented, so much so that house values and saleability can

vary wildly from street to street. That is because sanity has returned and a bome is now seen as somewhere to live not something to make a living out of. There is a great prize at stake here if bomeowners can be lifted out of their collective sulk by a recovery in the housing market that is sus-tainable and non-inflationary and achieved. mnreover, without any direct support measures. The Chancellor must be preying it arrives in time for him to take the bow.

Tesco looks like extending its lead

On first reading, Tesco's "help you out" campaign to raise the standards of service in its stores to new peaks of perfection shows Britain's leading supermarket group bonhomie. Still, Tesco is plainly working on record and strategy alone, Mr Thompagain taking the high ground in the battle overtime to maintain the ever widening gap son plainly deserves to win bands down. Bor-

recruited to pamper the customer may step up the pressure on competitors.

These are hardly high quality jobs. Hourly rates of £3.85 to £4.16 are some way better than those affered by the "McJobs" which are the much-criticised norm in the fast-food trade. None the less, these are low tech, part time positions. Britain's deregu-lated labour market has yet to prove it can create much else by way of employment. Still, a job is a job, and plenty of people will be glad to bave them.

Meanwhile, the company's attempts to paint its new initiative as a buge advance in customer service loses some credibility when set against the competition. Indeed, in terms of what it is spending and bow many are being pressed to the task. Tesco may be merely catching up with its rivals. Given that the other three groups are already offering similar services, customer assistants at Tesco are going to have to work especially hard to differentiate their service from the rest.

It also remains unclear whether the supermarkets' new emphasis on service can ever bave the same impact on sales that the earlier, highly effective price-cutting campaigns had. British consumers undoubtedly like good value, they may be more wary about the importation to the UK of American-style

gains are of themselves probably capable of absorbing the annual £100m cost of the company's customer care strategy, of which yesterday's initiative will cost £20m. If the extra sales do materialise, it will all be icing on the cake. If Sainsbury doesn't pull something remarkable out of the hat soon, which in turn will probably require management change of a much more dramatic nature than bas been seen to date, then Tesco looks to extend its lead well into the next century.

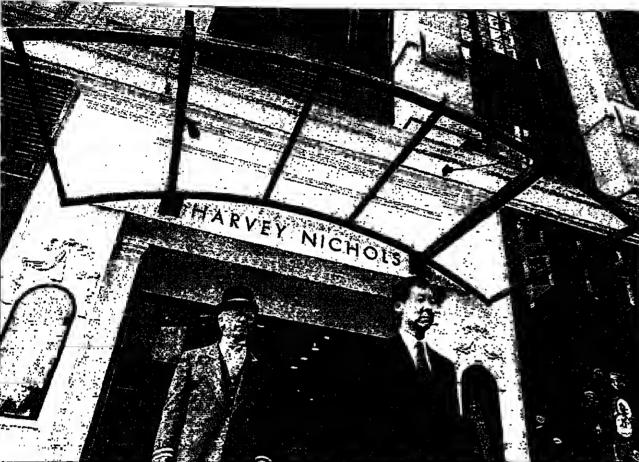
Rentokil may be able to bluff it out

To tweak or not to tweak - that is the ques-tion facing Clive Thompson, chief ex-ecutive of Rentokil this weekend as his bid for BET enters the final furlong. Raising the bid by just a little - say 10p to 15p a share -would almost certainly secure success. But be might just get away with it even if be does nothing. BET's big four sbareholders, M & G, Prudential, Threadneadle and Fidelity, are urging BET's John Clark to seek an agreed deal, in the bope of securing better terms. But with the arbs now sitting on well over 20 per cent of the stock, Rentokil will be sorely tempted to bluff it out.

ing may well be the word that best describes this takeover tussle, but it is clearly not a condition Mr Thompson suffers from. For fourteen years, way beyond the boredom threshold of most chief executives, Mr Thompson has trudged into Rentokil and every day he seems to find a new challenge in this distinctly unglamourous mix of pest control, tropical plants, office cleaning and mntorbike courier group of businesses. Since he arrived, £3.4bn has been added to Rentokil's stock market value and earnings have soared, year in, year out.

Mr Clark, by contrast, bas been at BET just four years, insufficient to establish the sort of high performance culture of success enjoyed by Rentokil but long enough to do mnre than he has done in establishing a viable strategy for BET's equally dull collection of service businesses. Mr Clark did a great job rescueing BET from the finan-cial abyss into which it was sinking. But as his share price atests, be hasn't done much else. Ignore this bid and the share price wouldn't be very different from the level it was at when Mr Clark arrived in 1992.

Just a little more time. Mr Clark protests, the refrain of all executives caught in slumber by a hostile takeover bid. If time isn't on his side, money certainly seems to be. When Mr Clark flies back to the US, his company lost to Rentokil, it will be with a cnol £5m in his back pocket, courtesy of a three year rolling contract and various performance



Upmarket offering: Joseph Wan, chief executive, outside Harvey Nichols yesterday

Photograph: Edward Webb

Poon to triple investment with Harvey Nichols float

TOM STEVENSON City Editor

Dickson Poon, the Hong Kong businessman who bought Har-vey Nicbols for £50m in 1991, will triple the value of his investment when Princess Diana's favourite store comes to the market this month. Back in jority control of the company. profit, and about to embark on an ambitious expansion into the provinces, Harvey Nicks is expected to be worth up to £150m.

Issuing its pathfinder prosperties yesternay, the company promised potential investors that it would resist attempts to popularise its upmarket brand name. Joseph Wan, chief executive, said he had turned down requests from BAA, the airport operator, to open stores at Heathrow and Gatwick.

"We are always totally mind-ful of doing only the best of the best and preserving the brand name. I want to take the brand even more upmarket," Mr Wan added.

Dickson Concepts, the vehicle through which Mr Poon acquired the sbares, plans to place 49.9 per cent at 240p-270p a share. At that level, he will more than recoup his original investment and still retain ma-Mr Poon bought Harvey

Nicbols in the depths of the recession when it was loss-mak-ing. He has since turned it round and profits of £9.1m are expected for the year to March just ended. That would represent a 50 per cent increase on the previous year.

Harvey Nichols is coming to

the market at a time when the group is planning a number of new investments. These include a new store in Leeds in the autumn and a restaurant at the newly refurbished Oxo building on the south bank of the Thames in London.

Mr Wan said the company also planned to increase the profits of the flagship Knights-bridge store and to develop a string of regional outlets in large cities and more standalong restaurants. There are proposals to create a wholesale fashion business that would attempt to set up exclusive distribution deals with top fahion names such as Calvin Klein

He countered fears that the group might be expanding too quickly. We are an ambitious group and want to grow our business, but we will not run before we can walk." No other provincial stores will be opened until 1999 when the success of the Leeds pilot store will have been established.

and Ralph Lauren.

Of restaurants, Mr Wan said: We will select only unique locations with excellent food and quality of service. Why should it not succeed?"

Harvey Nichols' main store is expected to benefit from an improvement in the retail climate in the UK. However, the company believesthat even without improving trading conditions profits can be improved by raising sales space and density and by maximising the balance be-tween own bought products and concessions.

The valuation of £132m-£148.5m was in line with analysts' expectations, although some suggested this was a little tio of around 24 against a retail sector average of about 18.5. Mr Wan dismissed that con-

cern, saying Harvey Nichols should be compared with other top stores in the sector rather than the average, and that on this basis the ratio was reasonable. He said the House of Fraser traded on a p/e of 24 while Liberty was value at 26 times earnings and Next at 22.

 Daiwa Bank New York branch's former general manager pleaded guilty to belping the bank conceal a \$1.1bn trading loss from US bank regulators after a trader confessed to them in July. Masahiro Tsuda pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to defraud the US Federal Reserve Board at a bearing in New York. He said he was following orders from the passes of the He said he was following orders from his supervisors and that Japan's Ministry of Finance wanted to delay reporting the losses. Tsuda was charged last November on the same day that a federal grand jury indicted Osaka-based Daiwa Bank on charges of covering up the \$1.1bn loss that its bead government bond trader in New York, Toshihide Iguchi, amassed during 12 years.

• Metaligesellschaft is not ruling out an out of court settlement with its former chief executive officer, Heinz Schimmelbusch, according to company spokesman Andreas Martin. He said this would be acceptable to the company provided Mr Schimmelbusch accepted responsibility for oil-trading related losses incurred at the company during bis tenure in 1992-1993. The company sued Mr Schimmelbusch for Dm25m (£11m)in damages last year, with the suit still pending in Frankfurt.

 More than 100 dealers bave been ordered to man currency, bond and equity desks today in the event of US employment statistics causing a repeat of last month's dive on Wall Street. BZW, SBC Warburg and Kleinwort Benson, and HSBC all said they bad taken the precaution of calling staff in for the day.

• Total insured losses from catastrophes in the US last year have Deen estimated at \$2.5bn (£1.6bn), the third worst in history. Winter storms were responsible to the large amount of claims, said the American Insurance Services Group, whose Property Claim Services unit compiles the figures.

 Banque Paribas said its Courcoux-Bouvet brokerage unit bas acquired the private banking asset management activities of Swiss Bank Corp unit Societe de Banque Suisse for an undisclosed sum.

Richard Page, Junior Energy Minister, bas approved proposals for Amerada Hess to develop the Durward oil field in the Central North Sea. Five production and four water injection wells will be drilled. Recoverable reserves are estimated at 50 million barrels of oil mith a field life of the user. barrels of oil, with a field life of five years. First oil production is scheduled for early 1997.

Mercury One-2-One, the joint venture mobile phone company equally owned by Cable & Wireless and US West, said it had a total of 410,000 customers at the end of last month, giving it a 7 per cent market share in the UK. It said its network had 40 per cent of the UK's population covered in February, and expected 80 per cent coverage by the end of the year. More than 75 per cent of subscribers make a call every day and more than 25 million of the coverage by the coverage by the end of the year. lion calls are made every week.

• Pearson, the media and entertainment group, announced a new profit sharing agreement for the three Lazard investment banks in which it retains a significant stake. The partners and managing all profits and London will be a large and larg ing directors of each house in New York, Paris and London, will receive about one third of the profits of all three from a common pool, to be shared out globally. "Our purpose in creating this system is to make the most of who we are without jeopardizing what makes each of us unique", said Michel David-Weill, chairman of both Lazard Freres & Co and Lazard Partners. The three Lazard houses were formally linked together in June 1984 through the creation of Lazard Partners. Up until now, the partners of the three banks have shared profits locally.

The Inland Revenue yesterday said that employees were liable the condition that they do not join a rival company. However, the condition that they do not join a rival company. However, employees can escape tax if they simply agree to waive any legal mights and defined a rival covariant an employer in return rights and claims they might have against an employer in return for a pay-off. The ruling will be widely welcomed by employees for a pay-off. The ruling will be widely welcomed by employees to facing redundancy. It is increasingly common for employees to easked to sign away any legal rights in order to qualify for redundancy resumed. dundancy payments

Incentives fail to get new cars on to the roads

RUSSELL HOTTEN

New UK car sales fell again last month as private buyers continued to shun the market despite massive incentives and promotional schemes run by manufacturers.

Sales fell 0.87 per cent in March to 180,275, from 181,849 in same month last year, with fleet sales recording a 3.9 per cent gain, according to the So-ciety of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Roger King, SMMT director, said: "Once again these figures reveal growth in the fleet and business sector, wholly offset by the decline in private purchasing." Private sales fell 6.6 per cent, a decline which Mr King said was a cause for concern.

Ian Shepherdson, UK econ-omist at HSBC, said that manufacturers were raising car prices above the level of inflation. "The trend in sales does now seem to be downwards in contrast to the recent improvement in the bousing market and retail sales," be said.

"The problem with new cars

week, they are too expensive. Prices bave risen by 4 per cent over the past year. Sales will therefore continue to struggle

Mr King said that the recent reports that UK and European car prices were higher than those in the US were "misleading" as they were not com-paring like with like.

"The reports have done nothing to build consumer confidence, which can only be encouraged by both manufacturers and retailers working together," be said.

New car registrations for the first quarter were up 1.08 per cent at 531,049 compared with 525,364 in January to March 1995. Ford remained the clear market leader, selling 35,534 cars in the mooth for a 19.71 per cent market share, although this was down from 21.22 per cent a year earlier. General Motors' Vauxhall division was in second place with 28,006 registrations, 15.54 per cent of the total.

Meanwhile, car fleet operators yesterday launched a campaign to secure the abolition of

is almost certainly that, as the Retail Motor Industry said last cars and vans bought in the UK. BET rejects attack on

pledge to lift dividend

RUSSELL HOTTEN

BET fired another shot in its defence against Rentokil vesterday amid growing speculation that the current £1.9on bid will have

to be raised to secure victory. As the takeover battle become increasingly acrimonious. BET rejected attacks on its promises to raise its dividend by issuing new information about debt levels.

BET said that as at 30 March its estimated net debt had fall-en to less than £60m, from £114m at 30 September last year. The company said it paid, net of disposals, £65m cash on acquisitions and £39m in divi-

was reacting to Wednesday's Rentokil statement questioning BET's ability to fund its in-creased dividend commitments and its acquisition programme.

John Clark, chief executive of BET, said: 'Judging from its press release, Rentokil appears to have based its inadequate offer on an assumption that net debt amounted to more than £114m. The estimated level of less than £60m further demonstrates the utter inadequacy of Rentokil's offer."

Rentokil defended its claims. Clive Thompson, chief executive, said: The simple fact is that despite BET's claims to be cash-generative, it is not. It has dends during the whole of the negative cash flow and its cash last financial year. BET said it position is deteriorating."

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le are offering readers of The Independent and the Indepen-I dent on Sunday a superb 2 for I offer on day return trips with Eurostar, for only £125. When you pay for one standard day return ticket at £125, to either Paris, Lille or Brussels, you will get another to the same value, free.

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Or why not visit Lille, the former capital of French Flanders. 1t offers a rich collection of architectural curiosities including the pentagonal Citadel fortress built by Vauban, and many enticing restaurants dotted around the city. Brussels holds plentiful attractions, ranging from historic sights to superb restaurants, stylish shops and

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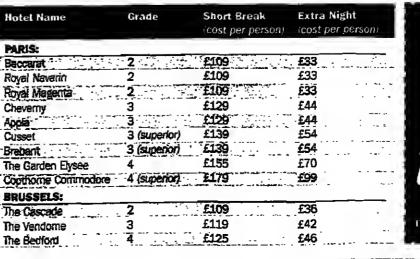
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Bookings for both our offers can be made from 3 April - 10 May 1996. Travel is available from 29 April - 3 June 1996. Terms and Conditions are as previously published and are available upon request.





Radical surgery revives McAlpine

McAlpine had warned in January that its decision to pull out of traditional open tender building work would send it plunging into the red. It was no sur-prise yesterday, therefore, that when it announced the figures the shares

should edge 4p higher to 178p.

There was relief that the company. no stranger to banana skins, should have delivered as promised and investors bave started to study the potential benefits of the focus on bousebuilding, civil engineering and

partnership work.

Results for the year to December confirmed the need for something radical to be done to allow McAlpine to create value for sharebolders once again rather than eating it up, which as the chart shows, has been its main achievement over the past five years.

The pre-tax loss of £23.5m was struck after a £34.7m exceptional write-off to cover losses from the discontinued building businesses of £7.3m and the £27.4m cost of sbutting them down with the loss of 650 jobs. Despite the collapse at the earnings per share line, the dividend was maintained at 7p as a sign of confidence that the corner

has finally been turned. Certainly there is evidence that the bousing market is beginning to pick up after a dismal second balf to last year snuffed out the green shoots that most builders experienced in the first three months of 1995. An improvement is badly needed as last year's rise in average selling price was not enough to offset rising costs elsewhere and operating profits slipped from £17.9m in the 14 months to December 1994 to just £11.5m, a 2.6 percentage points drop

in the margin to 7 per cent.

Civil engineering also bad a tough time of it as the Government cut back on its road spending plans and the company took the sensible view that a lot of the work it bad previously tendered for was not worth the candle. A collapse in the order book to a profitable rump of prospective work should mean that results start to improve.

Elsewhere, the formation of a special projects division to chase work such as football stadia and other leisure opportunities where McAlpine has a competitive advantage makes good sense. Profits from America of £3.4m may not sound a big return on sales of £102m, but it is twice as much as last year and the order book is improving.

McAlpine is far from out of the woods yet but, almost alone in the industry, it bas taken some courageous decisions in the past few months, despile consistent sniping from its own shareholders. Pre-tax profits of maybe £12.5m this year and £15m next time

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN coming back to nearer the bottom end of the range. It is not at all clear whether a Norcros pared back to tiles and showers, both of which are oper-

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

put the shares on a prosective p/e ratio of 16 falling to 13. Given the halance between recovery potential and the uncertainty still hanging over the industry that is reasonable.

Shake-up costs hurt Norcros

Michael Doherty, chairman of Norcros, has lived a charmed life. Arriving in 1988, the year after the mini-conglomerate escaped a £570m bid from Williams, Mr Doherty's brief was to give some direction to a group which had lost its way after a bout of over-ex-pansion had left it bloated and directionless. But despite almost continuous restructuring in the intervening period, the shares have tumbled from over 400p

to just 85p, up 1p yesterday. After eight years in the job, Mr Doberty is relinquishing his executive duties, although be will remain chairman. The executive reins are being handed on to Joe Matthews, head of the group's ceramics division, to reflect the new focus on that business. Two new directors are also being appointed from within Norcros to replace recent departures, including Nicholas Kelsall, who moves up from his position as fi-nance director of the H&R Johnson Tiles business to take on the same role

at group level.
This less than full-blooded reshuffle at the top was accompanied by news that the slow unwinding of Norcros is becoming increasingly painful. The group revealed that it will be forced to take a £5.3m charge in its results to March to cover restructuring in parts of its print and packaging di along with the costs of moving th office closer to its new core, ramics operation and Triton sh

The charge is bad news for pressed shareholders who were to June that they could expect to some direct value from the sale merger of the division. The re turing has been made necessa disappointing performance in pr packaging last year, particularly to totype and Norprint offshoots mates for the division's worth. varied from £100m-£150m last w

ा याप	12 months to December, a reflection
n parts	of one of the company's most turbu-
ivision,	lent periods since it first started de-
he bead	lighting children (and their fathers) in
the ce-	1920. Dutifully bowing to the latest
nowers.	stock market fashion for focused busi-
r hard-	nesses, Homby has pulled out of pow-
told last	er boats - a wise decision given the total
receive	lack of synergy with the main business,
e or de-	but it came at a cost.
estruc-	The disposal of Fletcher Boats to
ry by a	Kevin Leach, the Jersey-based entre-
rint and	preneur, crystallised a £4.1m loss
the Au-	which blew a hole in otherwise pretty
s. Esti-	respectable profits. After the one-off
which	charge, last year's £950,000 profit re-
ear, are	versed into a £3.8m loss. There was no
,	

ating in highly competitive markets, would attract a bid. But, standing at

around their break-up value, the shares are probably still worth hold-

ing, with the chance of a special divi-

dend payout once the print and packaging sales are completed.

Hornby's profits

Hornby's profits were derailed in the 12 months to December, a reflection

still off track

Ostrich crisis follows hot on the hooves of mad cow

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

You've had the mad cow disease scare, now comes the crisis in the ostrich industry. The Ostrich Farming Corporation of Mansfield is being wound up by the official receiver on orders from the Department of Trade and In-

dustry.

The company bas raised millions of pounds from investors by advertising a scheme selling ostriches as an investment opportunity. However, they are not regarded as investments by the regulators, and therefore had to be shut down, although no investors have lost money.

The receivers will be in control pending a winding-up-petition on S May. Unfortunately it would now seem the corporation will no longer be able to contribute to a "tightening up" of the industry's

code of ethics - which it called for in this very Diary a month ago.

Sick and tired of hearing whiney complaints on the phone at work? Do you ever wish that irritating callers would use more dulcet tones? Now your dream can come true with the "Encore" phone headset by Plantronics of Swindon.

By the mere flick of a switch on the headset the user can select "a fuller, richer tone - or revert to normal telephone tone if the caller is too high-pitched". A monaural set (with sound in one ear) starts at around £86.95 while binaural sets kick off at £106.25, Other ver-

sions are planned including four more "noise cancelling" models. The possibilities are

endless. How about a set that screens out calls from the bank manager?

The people at Heineken are worried. Not enough City people have applied for a chance to receive the Heineken Export "Wildest Dreams" sabbancal bursary worth £25,000. Entries have to be in by 26 April and the winner announced in June. Applicants must describe

the wild journey they have in mind - paddling up the Zambezi, say, or hiking through Peru. Heineken is worried that one of its core markets for strong lager - young chaps in the City - make up only 3. per cent of applicants so far. Which means you lot must either be working too hard on something like the Railtrack privatisation, or are still

deeping off a hangover.

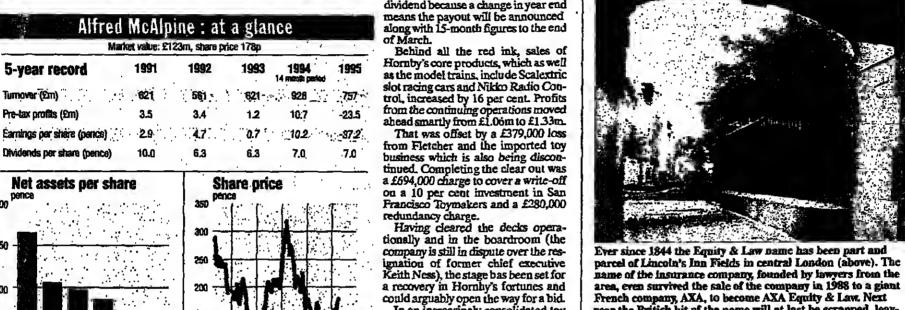
Oxford won the Veterans Boat Race against Cambridge vesterday - with a work rate only 7.5 per cent below what the youngsters are expected to expend on Saturday in the real thing. The over-35s race was a huge success, with only half-a-length dividing the boats as they completed balf the usual race distance, from University Stone to Hammersmith Pier.

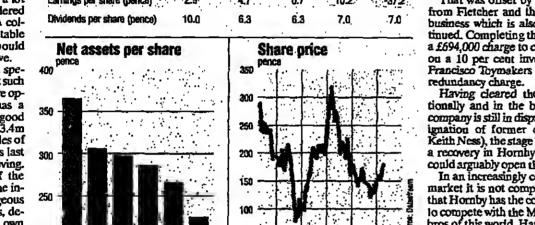
"Its a very, very fast time." said one expert. "A number of the crew are in early retirment, so they have time to train." Their work rates were calculated earlier using a Concept II Ergometer, a cross between a rowing machine and an instrument of torture (for the unfit, that is.) Most of the veteran Cam-

es slowed them down a bit. Even Barry Bateman, Fidelity's managing director, will be at work today - it is the last chance for PEP applications, in the current tax year. Get

your Tessa money in now.

bridge crew were merchant bankers. Perhaps those lunch-





In an increasingly consolidated toy year the British bit of the name will at last be scrapped, leaving AXA Life, although the UK head office will remain in Lin-coln's Inn Fields. The old E&L was hugely popular with market it is not completely apparent that Hornby has the commercial clout to compete with the Mattels and Hasindependent financial advisers, part of the reason the French bros of this world. Having doubled in bought it, and now the company feels enough people recogvalue over the past year, the shares, un-changed at 192p, are high enough. nise the AXA name over here. So what does AXA stand for? Nothing in particular, according to the company, it's just a modern sounding, internationally acceptable name.



Alain Gomez: Resigned

Thomson and GEC join in sonar venture

JOHN SHEPHERD

Thomson-CSF of France and GEC-Marconi, the main defence unit of British engineering conglomerate General Electric, are pooling their three existing sonar-systems businesses. The move will create the Commission under the EC world's largest sonar company called Thomson Marconi Sonar, which would have annual sales of around £360m and 3,500 workers.

On grounds of national se-

curity, both the UK and French governments have asked the European Commission not to study the deal. The govern-ments feel it would not be appropriate for the military aspects of the transaction to be notified to or considered by the EC merger regulation," a spokesman for the Department for Trade and Industry said.

The action by the two governments makes use of article 223 of the EC Treaty which

their essential security interests in merger regulation.

The European Commission had no immediate comment on the request. "The Commission has not yet received the request. As soon as it gets more detailed ships, submaring information it will examine the mine warfare. issue with all necessary care," a spokesman said.

A spokesman for GEC said: "TMS will build on the respective strengths of its two shareholders to secure European

allows member states to protect and world market leadership in sonars."

Thomson Marconi Sonar will provide sonar systems, which use sound waves to track chart and identify underwater activity and installations, for surface ships, submarines, aircraft and

The company will be owned 50.1 per cent by Thomson and 49.9 per cent by GEC-Marconi, and will have operating centres in France, Britain and Australia. 1ts international joint venture

team will be hased in France.

Industry analysts welcomed the merger, calling it a tidy alliance following a confusing period for Anglo-French defence co-operation.

In February, Thomson-CSF chairman Alain Gomez resigned in a row over the best method for developing Thomson-CSF. Newspapers reported at the time that the French government forced him out because of his plans to strike a deal with GEC instead of a French partner.

	manover F	LAM-INX F.	FL2	husbeud
Des Balley Construction (F)	25.1m (22.4m)	0.35m (0.45m)	2.41p (2.95p)	1.05p (1.05p)
Done Corp (F)	3.01m (0.78m)	0.21m (0.07m)	0.92p (-)	0.2p (nill)
Dolphin Packaging (F)	33.4m (26.9m)	3.29m (2.24m)	9.17p (7.1p)	5.20 (4.50)
Friendly Hotals (F)	42.0m (38.8m)	-8.3m (3.6m)	-40.7p (8.7p)	5.7p (5.7p)
Home Crantaes Hows (F)	30.5m (26.6m)	1.72m (1.68m)	11.730 (10.740)	5.5p (5.5p)
Martine & Merc Sec (1)	IrO.D4m (IrO.12m)	4r1.5m (4r0.9m)	-25.2p (-15.7p)	rd (·)
Martin Inti (F)	90.2m (90.4m)	-1.77m (0.71m)	-6.1p (1.4p)	1.7p (1.1p)
Alired McAlpine (17)	757m (926m)	-23.5m (10.7m)	-37.2p (10.2p)	7p (7p)
Quaexisticinugh Holdings (F) 4.36m (2.47m)	-1.00m (-0.01m)	-3.93p (1.33p)	nii (-)
Rap Group (F)	27.9m (22.0m)	1.14m (1.75m)	7.3p (12.9p)	4.65p (-)
Pitra Group (F)	73.0m (58.0m)	0.18m (-0.61m)	0.01p (-1.5p)	mil (-)
Scrittons (F)	47.1m (33.8m)	1.3m [1.6m)	18.4p (24p)	18p (13p)
Emberacule (()	1.59m (0.48m)	-0.9m (-0.84m)	-13.1p (-14.1p)	Ril (-)
UK Safety (F)	27.5m (30.9m)	-1.40m (1.62m)	-S.7p (5.2p)	nii (-)
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Holiday firm sees pick-up

First Choice, the third-largest tour operator in the UK, said that there were signs that the slow start to summer boliday bookings was showing signs of picking up, writes Juhn Shep-

Despite an increase in sales in recent weeks, however, the company said bookings to the end of March were still down by 17 per cent against last year.

Michael Julien, chairman, esterday told sbarebolders at the annual meeting: "We bave slightly increased our market share for the season and although our cumulative bookings to date are down, our sales mix has benefited from successful product innovations."

Mr Julien said the company

was heartened by the cautious approach of the hig operators in reducing capacity to reflect lower demand in the early booking period.

This approach should ensure that, as demand returns, profit margins for summer 1996 can return to a more satisfactory level than last year," be added. The holiday companies suf-

fered badly last year, principally because of over-optimistic fore-casts by the industry on how many holidays could be sold and by the long, hot spell of weather in the UK that led to millions staying at home.

First Choice, with Airtours, has been making acquisitions abroad and at home to combat the problems in the UK. The company made three acquisitions last autumn, picking up SkiBound, the remaining 50 per cent of Fiesta West in Canada and the husiness of JWT in Mr Julien said SkiBound and

 Cadbury Schweppes said its Trebor Bassett subsidiary bad agreed to huy Portfolio Foods, the sugar confectionery and popcorn business that trades as Craven Keiller. Craven's brands include Keiller and Butlerkist; it bas two manufacturing sites in the UK and employs about 700 people. Net assets at the end of March were £12m.

· FirstBus said Colin Smith, one of its regional directors and one of the original members of the huyout team from Grampian Transport, bad decided to leave the company to take up "long standing academic interests and other opportunities". His position as reginnal director for Scotland will be taken over by Robbie Duncan, who is currently the commercial director.

 Reckitt & Colman said it had sold the personal products division of its US subsidiary to JW Childs Associates for \$123m. In 1995 the division generated trading profits of about \$10m

from sales of \$110m. The net tangible assets of the division amounted to \$30m at the end of December. The proceeds are to be used by Reckitt

 Archer Group, the insurance broker, said its managing director Ralph Sharp had resigned his directorship of all group companies and was leaving the group. The company said Sharp "has been considering the changes which will occur in the Lloyd's Market in the post reconstruction and renewal period and wishes to be free to pursue a number of opportunities which may arise at that time".

 United News & Media said it bad appointed the following additional directors following the announcement on Tuesday that the merger offers for MAI had been declared unconditional: Sir James McKinnon, deputy chairman, Lord Hollick, chief executive, Charles Gregson, director of broking and information, and Roger Laughton, director of broadcasting and extertainment.

There were also three non-executive appointments: Richard Hooper, Sir Michael Lickiss, Christopher Powell and Geoffrey

 Division Group, the software house, has reached a deal with EDS under which the American company will resell the British company's virtual reality software in a range of markets round the world, including North America, Europe and the Far East.

EDS, one of the leading information services companies in the world, includes most of the Fortune 500 companies among its client tist.

 Standard Chartered Bank's stockbroking activities have been sold to Nava Finance, whose largest shareholder is the Thai Military Bank. The consideration of £8.7m buys Standard's operations in Hong Kong, Malaysia, China, Thailand, the UK and

• Greenalis has bought Red Coral Developments, a company which owns five pub-restaurants, for £8.9m in cash. All five pubs, one of which has a lodge, are in Kent and will be oper-Fiesta West bad traded well. | ated by Greenalls' Premier House division.



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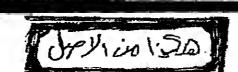
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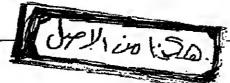
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Investors treated to Easter Parade of bid favourites

US non-farm payroll figures.
With Whitehall expected to clear the bids for Southern Electric and Midlands Electricity by National Power and PowerGen the hunt was on for other likely targets.

London Electricity, said to be in the sights of Thames Water, surged 20p to 793p - a 50p gain this week - and Yorkshire Electricity rose 15p to 857p, a
44p improvement over the

The hid excitement helped lift the FT-SE 100 index 30.5 points to 3,755.6; it is only 25.7 from its February peak. The supporting FT-SE 250 index, however, continued to outperform climbing 25.4 to yet perform, climbing 25.4 to yet another high, 4,385.3. The market, therefore, treated with splendid indifference today's payroll figures.

Last month they created havoc in New York, sending shares tumbling and, on the principle that when Wall Street sneezes London catches a cold, there was a sharp decline in do-



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

share buy-back hopes. Reed In-ternational gained 20p to 11.64p and United News & Me-dia, where Lord Hollick has moved in as chief executive, 18p to 684p. But Thorn EMI gave further ground, off 15p at 1,790p.

Rexam, the paper group,

prospect of investment presentations next week also pro-11p to 447p, helped by the Liv-erpool/Newcastle Utd televised clash which lifted Manchester Utd 6p to 293p.

Cariton Communications rose

high-tech share to come down with a bump, crashing 72p to 33p to 545p after an agency npened at Cambridge Water, 598p after it warned of increased losses. Firecrest, an Internet group, fell 7p to 7Sp, reflecting the Stock Exchange censure of chief executive, Roy Capper. Sage, as Nat West Securities said buy, improved

a further 9p to 404p. Pizza Express jumped 19p to 344p on suggestions Janus Capital, the US fund which has huilt an 18.57 per cent stake in the JD Wetherspoon puhs group, had acquired a taste for the pizza chain.

Ideal Hardware improved The floodgates were cross at 530p. Clubhaus, the until recently a statutory golf group, was the most heavily traded share; there was shares surged 139.5p to 245p talk of an institution buying shares at 6.5p. The firm, split new non-voting shares, handfrom the Ex-Lands property ed nut as a bonus, produced

and carry group, edged 2p higher to 178p. Figures, due next week, are expected to be disappointing and could prompt 14 per cent share-

group, has taken a five-year lease to manage Nizels Golf Cluh near Tonbridge, Kent.

Nurdin & Peacock, the cash against the £85 or so price

> Sntherland, the Edinburgh stockbroker, is to npen in London with Mike Cunnane, formerly with Panmure Gordnu, in charge.

before the change.

The case of the ca		TARONOTENA.	four days. Speculation continues of further US interest in the sector and it is thought Yorkshire, currently making presentations to its institutional investors, is fearful of a transatlantic strike. Anticipating bid clearances. NP gained 5p to 492p and PG 6.5p to 549.5p.	But London seemed content with the long holiday wait un- til Tuesday before it can get to grips with the US data. Excitement continued in	merchant bank where preda- tors are thought to circle, rose 8p to 251p, largely on bullish comments by its Hambro In- surance Service offshoot, up 10p at 94p. Granada, celebrated its first Forte sale – 60 hotels to Regal Hotels for £121.7m — with a	Euronamnel ignored its deht mountain, gaining 3p to 66p on its record irading last mouth. Continuing talk of disposals lifted WH Smith 12p to 464p and Great Universal Stores, up 17p to 684p, was thought to be helped by positive comments from Barclays de Zoete Wedd and Cazenove. Snperscape VR, the virtual reality group, was the latest	Mid-States, running a car parts operation in the US, held at 39p as Botton International Investments, the vehicle of Irish entrepreneur Dermot Desmond, lifted its interest to 16.06 per cent. Firth, the steel business, was also unchanged at 47p as Malaysian investment fund, Sri Inderajaya, nudged its stake to 14.13 per cent.	holder SHV, a Dutch investment group, to move for control. Last year SHV, which has 60 per cent of the Makro cash and carry husiness, attempted to gain control by pumping warehouses into N&P in exchange for shares. Avocet Mining, with interests in gold and tungsten mines, made a quiet debut, closing at 3p above its 240p placing price. Stock market turnover last minith was a record £68.2bn, beating the January 1994 record of £65bn. AIM turnover was also a peak — £133.4m.
Management of the second secon	Account of the control of the contro	## Common State 2 22 250	22 Normander 24	## 22	Insurance St. T. Abatics College 22 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	00	29. 12 Associated 19 Associate	Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The pricelearnings (PR) ratio is the share price divided by least year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional flowers. Other details: or Exception X Excelvidend xa Ex all u Unlisted Securities Market a Suspended pp Partly Paid pm NI Paid States. The Independent Index. Index Index Index

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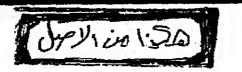
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n May 1995 the Government's White Paper on Media Owner. ship concluded that "to preserve the diversity of the broadcast and press media in the UK", there was a continuing case for specific regulations governing media ownership beyond those which are applied by the general competition law. At the same time, some liberalisation of ex-

isting ownership rules was proposed. The Broadcasting Bill, now going through Parliament, contemplates abolishing "the existing structure of detailed rules", substituting a set of "triggers on ownership levels in the media market as a whole, and secfor triggers, which when actually or prospectively exceeded would mean any media merger would be 'subject to approval by an independent media regulator' to determine the pub-

Thus, the special treatment of newspaper mergers in UK law would be extended, in modified form, to other media. A separate quango might be established alongside the other UK authorities, or incorporated in them.

Contributors to an Institute of Enconomic Affairs book on media incentration argue strongly against any further extension of regulation But accepting the premise that new rules to trigger regulatory action are needed to safeguard diversity in the media, do the proposals promise effective action?

The White Paper focuses on market shares above which a regulator must assess the public interest, whether the level is reached already or through merger or acquisition. The market shares for triggering intervention are defined by a mixture of shares m media as a whole (defined as television, press and radio) cent. This would he sufficient to

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Michael Beesley argues that the focus on regulating the industry misses the main

point - the very large share held by the BBC

ually. The triggers for the media sector as a whole (embracing all three) monopoly inquiry and exceeds most analysts' trigger levels. are determined as 10 per cent of the UK market, or 20 per cent of a geographical market embracing all three; 20 per cent of an individual sector - meaning it seems the UK as a whole - is also a trigger.

Thus the argument is that, in the long term, the media will be incorporated into the hody of UK competition law as it affects monopoly and merger. There may or may not be a specialist regulator: one option is to extend the OFT's remit.

Effective action will depend partly on these triggers - how to define them specifically, and who they will catch - and partly on what happens to the "assessment" when made. On the key issue of how to measure media markets, the White Paper failed to back a particular yardstick. William Shew and Irwin Stelzer argue convincingly for the "hours of use or audience time of the media", as the White Paper puts it, as the correct measure. They in effect dispose of the paper's alternative suggestions, advertising or consumer expenditure, and the British Media Group's ap-

These results clearly set out the incumhent problem, measured relevantly over the media as a whole. Their results may be put in MMC terms as a conventional four-firm concentration ratio of about 61 per

and shares of these sectors individ-

analysis' trigger levels.
The really significant figure, however, is the BBC's share, with 44 per cent of the market . Were it not for the BBC, there would be no concern at all over concentration (as conventionally measured). The next higgest firm, Carlton TV, has only 6-9 per cent of the market. So, the answer to the question of who the proposals are designed to catch is, m part, easily answered. The BBC. the only significant source of concentration, is excluded from the proposed extension of monopoly

powers as outside the private sector.

Data underlying Shew and Stelzer's analysis (see table) show that only in national newspapers does one group have more than 20 per cent of the audience. News Corporation has 37 per cent, and the Mirror Group has 26 per cent. Excluding the BBC, the largest share in tele-vision is Channel 4's 10 per cent, and in radio Capital's 10 per cent.

The immediate main target of the Government's proposals thus appears to be the two large newspaper groups which, in effect, are put on notice that further mergers in the sector or integration into other media will be scrutinised. The BBC, because it is in the public sector, is not affected by the proposed triggers. TV rivals have too small a national share to be caught by that trigger, but might qualify under the geographical rule which is obviously defined (albeit tentatively) with the existing regional TV licences in mind.

The package, by raising the possibility of an assessment and refusal, targets newspaper entrepreneurs. inhihiting their freedom to buy into large TV stations. Lesser cross-media moves will be able to proceed without this inhibitor.

Shew and Stelzer's work demonstrates that News International has only 3-4 per cent of the media market and the Mirror Group 2 per cent. Concern about a maximum of (say) 7 per cent of the national media market (for example, Carlton) being ndded to the 3-4 per cent or less held by a big newspaper group may seem odd in normal UK monopoly control terms, especially when entry conditions are becoming freer.

If there is an incumbent problem in a world of potentially free entry it must first and foremost concrn the BBC. In this respect, the Govern-ment's media ownership proposals are rather like Hamlet without the Prince. The BBC appears but fleetingly in them.

To summarise, much of the concern about media concentration is misplaced unless there are substantial barriers to entry. The evidence shows weakening constraints to entry, likely to gather momentum because of technological change and entrepreneurial response. It follows that concern about movements towards integration across the media

is similarly misplaced.
It is logical to consider the existing incumbent position (the degree of concentration now) as an independent factor because of the possibility that strong incumbents could develop fresh barriers to entry on the basis of present market shares. This



Lion's share: Soaps as successful as EastEnders have helped the BBC to capture 44 per cent of the market.

is equally improbable now, but there remains the need for a mechanism to review this possibility at intervals in the future. The most cogent reasons the Government's proposals on media ownership fail to be relevant is its neglect of basic economic issues, and even more important, their failure to confront the commercial implications of the BBC's being easily the largest player in the media scene (a failure found also in the 1994

White Paper on the BBC's future)." The 1995 White Paper proposes, in the long term, a substantial prolongation and elaboration of regu-lation, involving the present UK

competition law process not, as economic logic suggests, seeking a way forward in dismantling regulation as no longer needed. In short, the Government's media proposals reflect the general failure of UK competition law to provide properly for incumbent market power.

The focus on regulating the pri-vate sector in the media industries misses the main point about concentration - the very large share held by the BBC, whose future as a subsidised, large-scale producer is underwritten. This prospect does not, as many have argued, pose an economic threat to other players. But if the London Business School.

Power of the media National media concentration as measured by hours of use or audience time Media use % Carlton Communication Channel Four Granada Capital Radio News International 3.4 3.0 Yorkshire Television Mirror Group Newspapers 2.0 1.B HTV Group Scottish Television Daily Mail and Gen Trust United Newspapers 0:9 Pearson Reed Elsevier 0.8 EMAP Luxembourg Telecom 0.7 DC Thomson 0.5 elevision South West 0.5

the Government persists with its 1994 line (and there is no sign yet of a divergence in favour of privatisation), the practical focus of further policy reform should be the present Government-inspired impediments to entry, notably in licensing competitor networks of all disciplines including telephony, radio and TV channels.

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This article is extracted from an Institute of Economic Affairs booklet. Markets and the Media, Competition, Regulation and the Interests of Consumers. Professor Michael Beesley is a founding Professor of Economics at

Foreign			C Nau				
Sterling				Dollar			D-Mark
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spo
us	15275	8-6	22-19	1000	-	-	0675
Carecta	20752	11-3	50-37	13586	2-1	2-0	0917
Germany	22615	55-48	157-147	14805	28-26	80-76	1000
France	7.7040	140-118	371-340	50435	64-57	164-154	3406
Italy	2382.9	75-90	221-246	15600	57-64	170-182	1053.7
Japan	163.44	75-70	225-216	10700	45-44	136-133	72.272
5CU	12155	15-TI	45-40	12568	7-8	23-25	0.537
Belgium	46.473	12-9	34-29	30424	58-48	172-147	20549
Denmark	6.7305	138-95	411-317	5.755	60-40	175-125	3860
Netherlands	2,5270	63-54	189-175	16543	32-29	96-91	1117
teland	0.9696	9-5	25-20	15752	3-6	6-10	0.428
Norway	9.7944	116-64	329-233	84121	42-17	110-60	4.331
Scan	18908	39-48	117-134	123.79	32-36	97-105	83,610
Sweden	10.166	9-15	23-34	6.6562	98-123	260-310	4495
Switzerland	18277	68-60	197-185	11965	38-35	tti-105	0.608
Australia*	19540	20-31	67-85	12791	19-21	54-56	0.864
Hong Kong	11813	101-61	224-170	7.7328	2-12	15-35	5.223
Malaysia	38654	0-0	0-0	25305	4-14	60-80	1709
New Zaaland	2.2406	43-57	33-156	1.4667	30-32	88-90	0.990
Saudi Arabia	5,7291	0-0	0-0	3.7507	2-7	9-14	2533
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Erazil	15083	0.9871	Pakistan	52.7854	345454
China	12,7321	8.3325	Philippines	400336	26,2000
Egypt	5,1971	3.4035	Portugal	233.097	162,600
Finland	70666	4.6378	Qetar	5.5606	3645
Ghana	240961	1578.00	Russla	7456.64	4880.00
Greece	363,049	240,870	South Africa	6.2954	41200
india	52.0876	341000	Taiwan	41.6160	27.2360
Kurwant	0.4575	0.2994	LIAE	56125	3.6731

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Intervention	380				Fed Funds	5.25%		ount	300%
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UK	800%	7.42	8%%	800	Natherlands	9%	537	9%	6.36
us	5104	613	5426	632	Spain	10'4%	6.79	105%	944
Jepen	64%	181	31%	312	Italy	10'6%	1010	10%%	10.60
Australia	87%	540	10%	6.80	Belgium	74%	545	6'85	6.69
Germany	54%	538	6%	6.38	Sweden	11%	7.82	8%	844
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German Bond	(Jun 96)	3665	9677	9650	57527	220498
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Italian Bond	(Jun 96)	109.69	109.73	10900	27382	43284
3M Stering	(Jun 96)	93.96	3396	93.94	7396	78532
	(Sep 96)	93.76	93.78	83.76	4404	58488
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	(6ep 96)	96.70	96.72	9668	12402	221490
ECU	(Lin 96)	9548	95.49	9548	713	8383
	(Sep 96)	95.46	95/07	9544	338	3486
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FT-SE 100	(Jun 96)	37710	37760	37360	9630	57894
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Nickel		76	75-85		8065-70		12291	34808		108
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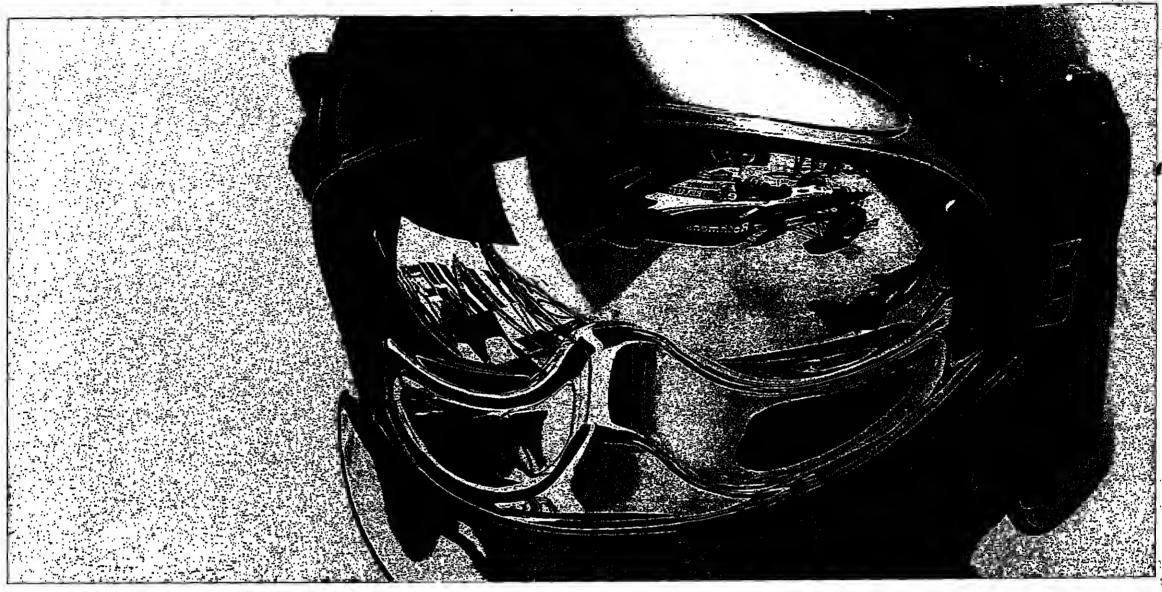
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Copies of the most recent managers reports and scheme particulars are available from fund managers free on

A more extensive list of Unit Trusts and Managed Funds, ranked by performance within each sector and including offer prices, is published in Saturday editions of the Independent

PLAY FORMULA DREAM TEAM





San Marino GP May 5 Monaco GP May 19 Spanish GP June 2 Canadian GF June 16 French GP June 30 **British GP** July 14 German GP July 28 Hungarian GP August 11 Belgian GP August 25 ttalian GP September 8 Portuguese GP September 22



October 13

WIN a drive in a Grand Prix car

just like Fantasy Football: you pick and manage your dream grand prix team to score points over the coming season.

Even though the grand prix season has started, it is oot too late to join in: pit your wits against other enthusiasts and you could win our overall 1996 champion's prize, a drive in a Formula One car plus additional prizes

for each race.

Individual race

prizes range from trips to major

grands prix, including this year's British Grand Prix at Silverstone, to a day at the Nigel Mansell Racing School at Brands Hatch.

Your team must comprise three drivers, a chassis and an engine; your budget is £40 millinn. Make your selections from the grand prix shopping list printed below; the only restriction is that your third driver must come from the £1 million category.

Details of how to enter are given on this page. You can enter a team at any point during the grand prix season but the earlier you enter, the greater your chances of being our overall champion. Remember, there are prizes for the winning Dream Team in each individual grand prix so you can enter a different team for each race.

HOW YOU SCORE

Points are awarded per race to the top six finishers, based nu the Formula One World Championship points scoring system (10, 6, 4, 3, 2, 1)

ormula 1 Dream Team is but with an extra 10 points awarded to each of the top six finishers. All drivers are eligible to score for a top six finish but can also notch up ex tra points as follows:

 The fastest driver in race-day warmup will collect six points, with five for the second and so on down to one point for the sixth quickest.

• Drivers score one point for each place they make up over their grid position. Points are oot deducted by los-

 Five points are lost if your driver posts first retirement, four for second down to one point lost for the fifth re-

 If your driver makes the quickest pitstop (from the entry of the pitlane to the exit) you gain five points. If your driver sets the fastest lap time

in the race, you gain five points. • If your driver receives a stop/go penalty, you lose five points.

 If your driver starts on pole position, you gain five points. • The Independent will came a Driver Of The Day after each race for

a particularly impressive performance,

worth five points. Non-qualification for a grand prix loses you two points. If a driver is on the FIA's published starting grid but fails to take the start, no points are lost. Drivers removed from the results for any reason lose all points gained that weekend. Any driver not

competing in a grand prix weekeod

scores no points. Chassis score and lose points in the same way as drivers for a top six finish or any early retirement. The score is based on the first chassis home of that particular manufacturer. Likewise, only the first chassis retirement will count if they are both among the first five to retire. Engine rules are the same as the



DREAM TEAM TOP PRIZE

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points at the end of the Grand Prix Championship season will win our top prize -

a drive in a 650bhp F1 car. You will be flown to the AGS team's training school in the south of France for the most

exhilarating experience of your life. The school specialises in F1 courses and provides all the racewear and instruction you will need for the day.

ARGENTINIAN GRAND PRIX PRIZE

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points following the Argentinian Grand Prix on 7 April will win an Initial trial at the Nigel Mansell Racing School. Your prize includes instruction laps in a BMW 318i before going out on your own in a Formula First single seater.

Congratulations to Mr K Ridings from Saltfleet by Louth, Lincolnshire with his team Bighill Racing. He has won our Brazilian Grand Prix prize, a VIP trip for two to the San Marino Grand

Choose your Dream Team from the shopping list on this page. Remember, you must choose three drivers (the third from the £1 million section), one chassis and one engine. You must not exceed your budget of £40 mil-

Give your team a name and register it by ringing 0891 891 805.

You will immediately be asked the entry question: How many races are there in this year's Formula One World Championship? To enter your Dream Team details you

can use one of two methods. Method 1 uses a tone phone that lets you key in the code numbers of your driver, chassis and engine

choices. The computer will check that vour team falls within budget and is el-Method 2 uses a oon-tone phone and

give your details verbally. A budget check is not possible using this method.

When you have registered your Dream Team, you will be asked to predict the number of points this year's champion will notch up over the year. In case of a tie at the end of the season, the nearest figure to the champion's points will win the top prize. In the event of a further tie, the team that registered first will win.

Once you have registered your team you will be asked for your name, address and telephone number. Ynur team selections plus your personal details will be played back to you and. when you confirm that they are correct, you will be given a PIN

This is confirmation of your entry and will enable you to access the score

There is no limit on the number of teams an individual can eater, but only one team can be registered per call.

CHECKING YOUR SCORE

You can check your team's position at any time by calling 0891 891 806 and quoting your PIN number. If you want to know the individual driver, chassis and engine scores from the most recent race, call 0891 891 807. This line will also list the Top 50 Formula One Dream Teams.

1. All telephone calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at allother times, with a typical call to se-cure your entry lasting between five and sevenminutes.

2. The deadline to be included in a particular race is midday the Friday prior to

3. The judge's decision is final, nn correspondence will be entered into and there is no cash alternative for prizes. 4. Employees of Newspaper Publishing Plc, Haymarket Publishing Ltd and all associated companies and their families are ineligible.

5. Entrants must be 18 or over and residents of the UK or the Irish Republic. 6. To be eligible for the main prize, you must hold a current driving licence, be no more than 1.95m tall and weigh no more than 220lbs.

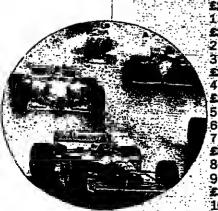
7. All scores will be worked out according to the nfficial FIA time sheets produced at the meeting. The values stated for drivers, engines and chassis bear no relation to real life. 8. In the event of a tie for the Dream Team Top Prize or for any of the individual

race prizes, the team that registered first 9. For lost PIN numbers, call 0891 891

808. Helpline: 01275 344183. 10. The Top 50 Teams Line, lists the top 50 teams from the last race. Both the Team Position Check Line and the Results & Top 50 Teams Line will be updated at 2 pm on the Monday following a race.

Make your selection from the Grand Prix ____Shopping List

£6m



I M Schumacher 2 J Alesi 3 D Hill £20m 4 G Berger £18m

5 D Coulthard E Irvine :: 7 J Villeneuve £13m 8 M Hakkinen 9 H H Frentzen: 11 R Bardchello 12 J Herbert 13 M Salo 14 P Lamy 15 P Dinz 16 U Katayama

17 J Verstappen 18 0 Panis **£3**m 19 L Badoer 20 R Rosset 21 A Montemini 35 N Larini*

DREAM TEAM registration: 0891 891

22 G Fisichella 23 V Sosplit* 24 T Marques* 25 F Lagorce* 26 H Noda* 27-T Inoue* £1m 28 M Blundeli*

29 J-C Boullion* 30 K Brack* 31 K Bunt* 32 E Collard* 33 N Fontana* 34 D Franchitti*

39 K Wendlinger *Not competing in: Buenos Aires, Argentina but may compete later

36 J Magnussen*

37 A Prost*

38 G Tarquini*

40 Benetton 41 Williams £18m 42 Ferrari £15m 43 McLaren £14m

£20m

Sauber 45 Jordan £10m

47 Tyrrell 48 Arrows £3m 49 Minar-£1m 50 1∖rti

£26m

56 Ford V10 51 Renault £18m £6m 52 Ferrari 57 Yamaha £15m £4m 53 Mercedes 58 Hart £12m 54 Peugeot 59 Ford Zetec £10m **V8** 55 Mugen £2m 60 Ford ED-V8

TEAM POSITION CHECK LINE: 0891 891 896 • RESULTS & TOP 50 TEAMS LINE: 0891 891 807

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Branch has solid look at 40-1

Greg Wood picks through the prices in the first four Classics of the season

Bookmakers offering dreadful odds on the Classic favourites system of accelerated development must be doubtful, as must are now as much as part of Easter tradition as eggs and hunnies, but this year the accountants to whom risk is the worst of all four-letter words have surpassed themselves.

As a demonstration of the way things are going, consider that Shadeed, the 1985 2,000 Guineas winner, could be hacked at 7-2 after his convincing win in the Craven Stakes: Shergar was an 8-1 chance for the Derby after Sandown Classic Trial victory and, briefly, 5-2 after taking the Chester Vase.

In the nervous 1990s, though, you will not beat 11-8 about Alhaarth for next month's 2,000 Guineas (or, for that matter, 3-1 for the Derby), despite the fact that he has yet to see a track this year, and indeed will only now be starting his fast work at home. Alhaarth is just one of 67 entries in the first colts' Classic, and yet the hookmakers are telling us that his chance of suc-

cess is almost 50 per cent. It has not yet been decided whether Alhaarth will have a Guineas prep-race, but since Dick Hern's two previous win-ners of the 2,000, Nashwan and Brigadier Gerard, did so first time up, this may not worry many punters or seriously affect his price. Whether a successful debut in a Classic is quite so likely in the era of Godolphin's

Athaerth H Céol 11-8
Mark Of Esteem Godophra 7-7
Beaschann Ring I Darlop 34-1
Royal Applause B Hais 18-1
Pormand J Goscon 16-1
Bijou D'anie M Johnston 16-1
Danchill Dancor N Calagran 20-2

Horse & trainer

· 温泉,各 香香 "松"了。

Alhaarth's right to be likened to such exceptional horses.

The Godolphin team has yet to make a final decision on which of their horses will return to Britain, and since their winter-holiday party included Mark Of Esteem, the ante-post 2,000 Guineas second-favourite, his odds too look cramped.

As yet, most trainers have little idea as to just how well their best horses have fared during the last five months, and fillies in particular are slow to come to hand after such a hard winter. In which case, you may fairly ask, what chance do punters have, and certainly there are hetter times than Easter to get involved in the ante-post markets. In the first two Classics.

though, the best juvenile often stands up well. Bookie-inspired dark horses, for example John Gosden's Pommard, recently well-supported (so they tell us) to 16-1 for the 2,000, are best avoided. Pommard, who won a maiden in June on his only start, maiden in June on his only start, is clearly working like a good horse, but experience is just as

Again, the best two-year-olds generally go very well in the 1,000, but the current odds important at Newmarket. On a simple point of value, Danehill Dancer, runner-up to Alhaarth in the Dewhurst, looks overpriced at 25-1, and would certainly be so if any mishap were to hefall the favourite.

35-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 40-1



Bosra Sham, a powerful filly but skinny in the betting for the 1,000 Guineau

Photograph: Ed Byrne

dominated, as they have been throughout the winter, by Bosra Sham and Blue Duster, though the uncertain participation of A Votre Sante, trained by Criquette Head, is a unfortunate complication. A Votre Sante destroyed a useful field at Saint-Cloud a week ago, and at 12-1 would he a very interesting candidate, but the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches (French 1,000) is an equally likely target.

about Bosra Sham, last year's Fillies' Mile winner, and Blue Duster, who took the Cheveley Park Stakes, are hest avoided. One alternative is My Branch, a 40-1 chance with Ladbrokes. who was runner-up to Blue The 1,000 Guineas odds are Duster at Newmarket and im-

hanna Saghenen M Stocke _____. Reld For the Hitle D Loder _____

proved rapidly throughout last season. If that progress has con-tinued, she could yet be a serious contender.

Alhaarth dominates the Derby market too, but by June the late developers will be finding form and there are plenty of names to consider. Another of John Gosden's charges, Sacho, hy Sadlers Wells out of Oh So Sharp, has been well backed recently, while Silver Dome, who beat him in a Newmarket maid-en, has also found support.

Preference is for the 33-1 chance Helicon, another Newmarket maiden winner who joined the exodus to Dubai. while in the Oaks, Bint Salsabil is fairly priced at 16-1. This Classic often cuts up, and as a daughter of Nashwan and Salsabil, she has the pedigree.

liosse & trainer	Coral:	Win FCB	Ladtrokes	Tota
Utanth W R Hom	3.1	114	5-2	5.2
Mark Of Esteem Godesprim	20.1	12-1	14-1	141
Sacho J Gosom		. 14-1 ··	14.1	12-1
Silver Dome H Cock	16.1	16-1	.14-1	20-1
Beauchamp King J Durlop	25-1	25-1 "	20-1	20-1
Money Current	25.9	20-1	20.1	20-1
Micks Lave Godolphin	- 25 L	25-1	- 25-1	25.1
Astor Pince P Chappin Hysm		23-1 ··	33-1	33.1
Briefet Wester H Cacl	33-1	_ 33-1	. 33-1	40-1
Cleanic Engle S Willerns	33-1	33-1 "	23-1	251
Don Michalotta Godoffinis	25-1	33.1	48.1	33.1
Dusfryarrior H Cecil	201	33-1	25-1	33-1
Elevatry Range P Bay		· 33.1	S . 4 6 . 4	40-1
Elevally Range P Bay Even Top M Tompline	33-1	33-1	33-1	40.1
Helicon Godolphin	25 1	33.1	25-1	33-1
leron Island P Chemis Pyon	20-1	33-1	33-1	7 25 1 · ·
Kommenna Godolphin		89-1	33 1	33-1
		33-1-	33-1	40-1
agal Right P Compose Hom	33-1	33-1	25-1	-40-1
oup Solltaire A Fabre	26-1	33-1	25-1	33 1

forse a parce.	Corat / Wa Hill: Ladbrok	s Tota
est Salisabil / Duriop	141 161 141	16-1
lears Sham H Dack	18.1	12-1
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tory Line 2 Hills.	25-1 25-1 33-1	33-1
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abilishe Down P Core		33-1
defety -	33-1 - 33-1 40-1	25-1
costa Decour A Febre		25-1
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	I four furtones on Epson Donne on ?	

Each way 1/4 the otter a place for the that these places?

The Jockey Club yesterday defended the decision of the "The stewards had a strange set stewards at Ludlow on Wed- of circumstances before them, nesday who allowed Oaklands could not apportion blame, and Word to keep the hunter chase so allowed the result to stand. even though he had jumped one fence fewer than the runner-up, West Quay. The confusion arose when a fence was ceptional circumstances for the partially dolled off because of finishers not to have jumped the a stricken jockey.

The Cluh's John Maxse said: The rules permit that. They are for the protection of horses and riders, and it is possible in exsame number of fences.

In the afternoon there will be

various attractions on the downs

including Tracey Bailey per-

forming a bungee jump. Cost for

the whole day is £5 per person

23-1 33-1 40-1 40-1 50-1 40-1 15-1

Stewards are defended Scientist doubts if Shergar case is drawing to a close many Stud in 1983. But DNA teotial is there for a 100%, un-huilt from the carcass and then The head of the Weatherbys'

Bloodtyping Laboratories in Co. Kildare, John Flynn, yesterday sought to play down stories that an end to the 13-year riddle of Shergar's disappearance is near.

in Co Donegal has sparked hopes of an identification of the

when he was alive by souvenir hunters must first be built before there is a possibility of knowing whether the remains are those

Flyan, who will mastermind

"There will have to be a

from other material, sources of hair which have come to light and Shergar's offspring.

"If all three were to match up, complete and thorough testing procedure and we will be rely-whelming evidence, but the ma-

All eyes turn to woes of Wigan

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Wigan's ability to keep their eyes on the ball and their minds on the job in hand have rarely come under the degree of scrutiny they will face at St Helens today.

This Good Friday derby, now part of the opening exchanges of a summer season, was highcharged even before the Wigan chairman, Jack Robinson, and another director were arrested for alleged conspiracy to defraud on Wednesday.

The news broke just as the game's governing body, the Rugby League Council, was meeting in Wigan and there was, by all accounts, little sympathy for the hosts. The representatives of some clubs did not even attempt to keep their faces straight. All those clubs will be watching Wigan for signs of stress at Knowsley Road today.

Robinson is adamant he will not stand down, "I've been charged but I've not been found guilty," he said. "I'm obviously very disappointed to be in this position, but everyone at the club has shown solidarity and I've not considered stepping down."

The club brought in a clairvoyant this week, as a gimmick before the Saints match, but they find themselves in the grip of unforseen circumstances.

Neil Cowie, the prop forward also interviewed by police on Wednesday before being re-leased without charge, has been included in an unchanged side.

Wigan showed an uncharac-

their first Super League match. Today will be an infinitely stern-er test of how they will cope with their current tensions.

At the same time, the match comes earlier in the season than is ideal for Saints, leaving their coach, Shaun McRae, to play down the make-or-hreak nature of the meeting. "I've been telling the players that, like every other match, it counts for two points," he said. With Andy Leatham and Simon Booth injured, McRae

gives a full debut to his fellow-Australian, Derek McVey, and has Adam Fogerty hack after three months out with an ankle injury and Tommy Martyn on the bench after even longer absent. Bradford Bulls yesterday

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completed the signing of the 24-year-old utility forward, Steve McNamara, from Hull for an undisclosed fee over £100,000. He was signed too late to play against Sheffield Eagles today, hut will be in the squad against London on Monday.

Leeds have Carl Hall hack but are without Adrian Morley. with Nick Fozzard coming in, for their match against Castleford, while Warrington give the young New Zealander, Toa Kohe-Love, his full dehut

against Workington. The First and Second Divisions will play under the more liberal - if frequently more confusing - rule that allows four substitutes and up to six changes for the first time. In the pick of those matches. Widnes go to First Division Champions Salford. while the new South Wales club's fortunes at Prescot Panthers. teristic tendency to over-praise the renamed perennial back-themselves after their 56-16 markers, Highfield, will he victory over a dismal Oldham in watched anxiously.

Johnson advances at expense of Hands

Squash

Tony Hands became Paul Johnson's latest victim yesterday in the second round of the Leekes British Open. The Kent player took another unexpected step towards the latter stages at the Cardiff International Arena after a 15-17, 15-11, 15-12, 15-13 victory which took more than an hour and a balf.

After a hesitant first game on the Perspex show court, the 23- of Essex 9-5, 9-0, 9-0 in just 22 ear-old left-hander drove minutes. Cassie Jackman, the Hands on to the defensive and cut him apart at the end with string of forehand kill-shots. Everyone thought the English would do well in this tournament, but they didn't expect it to come from me," said Johnson, who put out the national champion, Peter Nicol, in the previous round.

Johnson was prohably expecting to meet fellow Englishman Chris Walker in today's quarter-finals, but Walker, the only other remaining seed in the half of the draw of the defend-

ing champion, Jansher Khan, was unexpectedly beaten 15-13, 15-9, 12-15, 15-8 in 63 minutes by the French champion, Julien Bonetat. Bonetat never allowed Walker to get into the match and could have won in straight games hut for the Essex man providing brief resistance to fight back from 9-5 down in the third game.

England was successful in the women's matches with Gloucester's Fiona Geaves, the eighth seed, beating Rehecca Macree fourth seed, heat Vicki Cardwell, the 40-year-old Australian who dominated in the early 1980s, 9-1, 9-5, 9-6, "I played pretty well for two games but I let her drag me into the third," Jackman admitted. "It is always hard to get past Vicky without getting messed ahout a hit."

Mark Chaloner, who is through to the quarter-finals in Cardiff, has been voted player of the year by the British Squash Professionals' Association. The England No 3 Linda Charman took the women's award.

Stable doors left open today

With racing taking its traditional hreak in Britain and Ireland for Good Friday, two of the leading training centres - Lambourn and Middleham - throw open their gates to the public.

In Lambourn - where visitors are advised to arrive early to avoid traffic congestion - the main vards are open from Equine celebrities will include 8.30am until 1pm, while the remaining stables open at 9.30am. and the showjumper Milton.

RACING RESULTS

LEICESTER 2.10: 1. ROYAL CANASKA /R Hughes) 10-11 fav; 2. North Song 9-2; 3. Reinhardt 13-2: 12 ran. Hd, 14-4. (0 Loder, Newmar-les). Tota: £1.50: £1.30, £2.10. £1.60. DF; £2.60. CSF: £7.19. Tho: £15.60. NR: Glen

Parker.

240; 1. CICERONE IG Duffield) 6-1; 2. Proud Image 5-1 on fav; 3. Cool Caper 25-1 11 ran. 5-1 on fav Silver Harrow. 24c. 24r. If 1 Harris, Metton Mowbray. Total: 63.0; 61.90, 61.90, 51.1.20. DF: £9.60. CSF. £35.03. The: £246.50 - pan won. Pool of £380.54 camed farward to tomorrow. NR: Forgotten Dancer. 3.10: 1. PIP'S DREAM (N' Carson) 16-1;

3.10: 1. PIP'S DREAM (W C3750) 101.
2. Clibranel News 12: 1; 3. Rock Group
7-1; 4. Belta Sedona 11: 1, 21 ran. 5-1 fav
Cuango. 4; 1. IM Ryan, Newmarkel). Tota:
£19: 30: £3:10, £2:60, £2:20, £3:40, 07:
£168: 10, CSF: £202.97, Trasas: £1.387.89,
NR: Tangh Meran. Tho: £107.70 - pair won.
Pool of £318.68 carried forward to tomorrow. 3.40: 1. OCEAN PARK IA CIAN 4-1: 2. 3.40: 1. OCEAN PARK (A CIAN) 4:1. 2: Lookingforershibow 16-1; 3. Remandi Sun 25-1. 13 ran. 2-1 fav Esterio Net (5th). Stu-ful, Hd. (Lady Hernes, Limiteraturon). Total: 53.70: £1.50, £4.00, £20.40, Dr. 1:38.60. CSF: £61, 14, Incast: £1,319.19. The £238.50 - part won. Pool of £302.44 canned forward to promotrow. NRt Labudd.
4.10: 1. 4704.6. (P. HdS.) £6-31. 2. Mark

4.10: 1 ATRAF (R Hills) 16-1; 2 Mari 3-1; 3, Wisson 9-4 lav. 7 ran. 5, 114. (II Morley, Neumarket), Toka: £24.10: £5.50, £3.00. DF: £43.30, CSF: £57.97. 440: 1. ROCKYLLE PIKE (T Quarti 13-2; 2. Noeprob 7-1: 3. Manaber 3-1 fav. 3-1 fav. m. (S Dow. Epsom), Tote: 55.70; £3.30, £2.00, £1.30, 15: £19.50, CSF: £5.62, Tox. £27.80, NR: Deeply Vale, French Griger.

5.10: 1. NAMER CHROLE (/ Red) 4-1: 2. Papaha 2-1 far; 3. Royal Diversion 10-1. 17 ran, 1-4. (P. Chappie-Harm, Marton, Total 54-80: £290, £200, £250, DF; 56-40, CSF. 13.04. Ther £26.50 NR: Lady Berson. Jackpore Not work Pool of £3.369.09 c3r-ned forward to approximate the second to appro to forward to introction. accept: £404.80, Quadget: £100.40, ace 6: £623.99. Place 5: £473.35.

LINGFIELD 2.00: 1. BR.KO (Par Ender;) 4-6 fav; 2. Fish Riction 9-4: 2. Mally Minsic 29-1. 5 ran. 11/4, 5. (G. Lawis, Elscom., Tota: 51-80; 51-10, 62-10, DF: £1.10, CSF-£2-56. 2.30: 1. ECHYD-DA (M. Ferrori) 5-2: 2. Kingshger 11-10 by: 3. Serry Bohaviour 5-2. 3 ran, 2/2, %, 1M. Ber, Newmarken for 12.30, DF: £2.50. CSF: £5.00. but is free for children under 12.

The same prices apply at Middleham, where all 15 yards are open from 9.30am to 1 pm.

3.00: 1. THORNIWAMA (M Baird) 14-1; 2. Zahld 1-1; 3. Polly Peculiar 7-1, 14 can. 10-3 fav Errant (501), 134, 34, U Bridger, Liphook), Tota: £15.50: £2.60, £3.00. £4.50. Dr. £95.30. CSF: £105.20. Thosat: £696.20. Tro: £277.40.

£696.20. Tno: £277.40.

3.30: 1. CHAMPAGNE GRANDY (P P Muz-phy) 12-1: 2. Proud Monk 6-1: 3. Ther 5-1 fav. 4. Golden Pound 13-2: 16 ran. 24. 4. (M. Channon, Upper Lambourn). Totae £19.20: £4.10. £2.50. £2.60. DF. £133.10. CSF: £88.31. Mcast £396.41. Tno: £338.00.

£338.00.
4.00: 1. PRINCE KINSKY (J. Weaver) 4-5 far, 2. Bineberry Fleids 4-1; 3. Bright Edipus 6-1. 7 ran. 5, 7. (Lord Humnegon, West Isley). Table: £2.10; £1.30, £1.50. DF: £4.60. CSF: £5.08. NR: Shellas Dream. £4.60. CSF: £5.08. Nrt Sheas Dream.
4.30: 1 OUR SHADEE IC Scally 3-1 ft fav: 2 Invocation 9-2; 3. Maple Burl 6-1.
2 rsn. 3-1 ft fav The Institute Boy (4m. 1½), sh hd. ff knov, Radient). Totae £3.60; £1.60.
£1.10. DF: £7.90. CSF: £1.42.
Placepot: £61.50. Quadpot: £11.30.
Place 8: £77.36. Place 8: £70.47.

MUSSELBURGH

2.20: 1. SWEET EMMALINE (T Sprake)
4-1; 2. Swino 3-1 n tov; 3. Tribal Mischief
7-1. 9 ran. 3-1 n tov Bolero Boy, 5, ¾4, (W
Turnet). Total: £6.80; £2.20, £1.10, £5.80.
DF: £7.90. CSF: £11.52. Trio: £36.90. DF: £7.50. USF: £11.92. III0. £30.50.
2.50: 1. KLERNAN U Forume) 5.1; 2. Gold
Desire 7-1: 3. Keep Battiling 14-1: 13 ran.
3-1 fav Drummer Hoss. 1, -/a, (7 Banon). Totas:
57.70; £1.50, £2.60, £2.50... DF: £30.90.
CSF: £42.29. Titoast: £511.30. Tion: £30.90. CSF: £42.29. Intest: £51.20 (G Hind) 5-1 fav; 3.20: 1. TO THE ROOF (G Hind) 5-1 fav; 2. Domicksky 11-1; 3. Tenor 6-1; 4. Son-derise 8-1. 18 ran. 3, htt. (F Hams.). Tets: £4.30: £1.40. £2.00. £2.20. £1.30. DF; £18.30. CSF: £53.11. Theast: £323.03. NR: My Chernywell. Tro: £42.30.

My Chernwell. This 14230.
3.50: 1. SWAN HURTER (J Forume) 7-4;
2. Anna Soleil 33-1: 3. Sedbergh 5-1. 6
ran. 5-4 (av Poetry (4th). 2-/c, 13/4. (D Coscove). Total: 12.50: £1.10, £4.90. DF: grove). Total: £2.50; £ £68.30, CSF: £32.96. 4.20: 1. 8EDAZZIE (PRobinson) 5-1 far;

4.20:1. BEDAZZIE (Heppinson 5-1 Tay, 2. Spirito Libro 11-2: 3. Northern Spark 11-2: 14 red. Ni. 27: (M. Britain). Totae: 15-90: £1-90. £2-60. £2-10. DP: £19.70. CSF. £33.36. Troast. £155.80. Trio: £45.80. 4.50: 1. EBEN NAAS (K Darley) 3-1; 2. 4.50: 1 EBEN NAAS (K Darley) 3-1: 2. Backhander 16-1; 3. Magper Rocks 25-1. 14 ran. 9-1 fav Prote O'f Kashmir. Nk. 43. (S Williams). Total: £1.50; £1.50. £3.30, £31.50. Of: £36.30. CSF: £45.47. Incest: £321.92. Inc: £322.10. gg31.92. Inc: £322.10. ggadpot: £57.90. Placepot: £145.20. Quadpot: £57.90. Place 6: £102.84. Place 5: £56.34. The exhumation of a carcass

Each way "A the odds a place for the first tiven places .

colt, kidnapped from the Bally-

TODAY

CYCLING: International Track Meeting (Hame Hill). Sprints, pursues, learns, devil take the hindmosts, plus the first round of the 1998 British points series champlonship. Prehimmary races start at 10.30cm, with the ordinal series and finals from 1pm. Admission: £7.50 adults, £5 children, under-13s fires, £15 family toket. Herne Hill Stadium, Burbage Road, Herne Hill, London £24.

MOTOR RACING: Brosh Formula Two Champorship (Oulton Park). Qualifying starts at 8.45cm and the first race of the inner strong programme is at 1.45cm. Admission: £10 adults, children free, Oulton Park, Little Budwint, Terporley, Chestire, Junctions 18 or 19 of M5, head for Chester and circuit a signostical at A54/A49 recreacedon. (1et 01829 760303).

Process of Comments and Secretary (18th United Process of Secretary Comments before the World Champonships, Today, that round, Admission: £2 all day, Comments (Quarter-finals: £2 all day, Sunday Semi-finals: £1 pm, £7 pm, £7. Monday, Finals: £1 pm, £8. 3pm, £10, Pkmouth Pawlions, Milbank Road, (19th 01752 229522). SQUASH: Leekes Brush Open (Cardiff), Sessions today, noon and 6pm, £10; tornomow sold out; Sunday, 1pm, £17; instruments and the comments of Bursh Terrace, Cardiff, (7et; 01222 224488).

TABLE TERMES: English Open (Comments hips

TABLE TENNIS: English Open Championships (Keneting). The burnament bosst all the lead-ing English players, plus too-hooth overseas players, including the world singles champi-

on, Kong Lingtun, of Chira, the top seed in the men's singles. Today: 10am, admission: £6 adults, £3 children, £15 family todat (on adults, two children)Kettering Leisura Village.

Truston Orive, Yestering, Northernstonshire, is close to junction eight of A14. (01538 414141).

41.41.1. WINDSUPPING: BWA Nedoral Championship sense (Marazon). Competitors are split into two categories, who sail the same course. The Premier feet comprises professional men and youths and the Amateur feet for men and womer. Racing is in two disciplinest course racing and statom. Mouras Bay, off Meradon, east of Perizance, Commed.

FOOTBALL: FA Carting Premiership, End-sleigh League and Ball's Scottish League.

HIXORY UNION: Representative Match: Cardiff v Barbanans (2,30). Courage Clubs Champo-onship, Heinaisin Welsh League, Insurance Cor-poration Insh League.

position insh League.

RACHO (Flat meetings in capitalist; HAYDOCK Courty Start £15; Tatussals £2; Newton Stard £4 (DAPs half-price in Tatiersals
and Newton Stand). (First race 1.30), NEWPTONE Club £15, Lumors (16 to 25-year-dick)
£12; Geandstand £10; Saver Brig £5, (1.45).
Carlislae Club £12; (DAPs and under £15 £3);
Tatiensals £6 ToAPs and under £15 £31.
£2.05). Newton Abbott Tatiersals £3.50;
Course £4. Æ2.05; Towocaster Members
£12; Tatiersals £3; Course £4 (Car plus all
occupants £15), (2.20).

CANCEPME: With Moure Record (Stubber-

CANCENSE Wild Wester Racing (Statistic-houses, near Flampitch). The industrial com-petition statis at noon for the Denson A and open recess on the Rev Washbarn below the Transports reservoir and finishes 3% Miometres.

Instances essence and member 3% Nomeros concerns at the hindge over ASS near Blubberhouses before the Fewson research. The mans event starts at 25m. There is a car pash below the data at the Paulances research. Though the mack is high mack from ASS and at the Paulances of the form ASS and at the first near the origin. Blubberhouses in an ASS Newson the Europe 10 Paulance 10 P

is on A59 Hampgare to Sicoton road.

TOMORROW

This weekend

TODAY

of the 1981 Derby winner.

the process, warned: "The po-

CYCLING: Brosh Mountain Bide Neuonal Points Series (Port Talbot). The Olympic squed competes along with an oversess entry. The downhift roces start et 11am ton row. On Sunday, the first rider on the cross-country goes at 9am, with the pro-line entrants scarting at 1pm, Admission: £3.50 adults, £2 children/concessions. Margam Country Park, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan, as signposted from junction 38, M4.
FENCING: Birmsnigham International (University 1988).

Country Park, Port Labott, West datanorgan, a signosted from junction 38, M4.

FENCING: Bermingham International (University of Birmingham). The 67th International has an entity of more than 400 fencers from British and Europe consisting men's and women's épée as Penny Tominson, the Edigostion-based international, returns to form to challenge the defending champion. Jos Hoffmans-Clark, from the Netherlands, Victory for Turminson, the British No.1 who is to e previous wither, would put her in good from for the British round of the women's World Cup at towich laver this month. Competition starts at Sern, with finals from 5pm. Speciating is thee. Sports centre, University of Berningham. Is off A38. Bristol Road South, Berningham.

ROWING Unwersy Boat Race (Putrey to Mortiske, River Thomes). The 1.42nd race tomorrow starts at 3.30pm when Codord and Cambridge embark on the 44x miles from Putrey to Mortiske. The Tiberray is Mortiske. The Tiberray is easy accessible by public transport. At the start, Putrey Bridge (Waterioo BR to Putrey Bridge) offers the best view and Futhern Park is good for pictriching. Bishop's Park, on the Futhern bank, Hammersmith Bridge (Piccadilly or District to Hammersmith Bridge), Dukes Meedow, at Chisrade, Barnes Rahlway Bridge and Chiswick Bridge of the first (Wateriao BR to Mortiske, District line to Kaw Cardens) all offer variage points.

FOOTBALL: Scottish FA Cup same-final: Ceitic

v Rangers (4.0) eat hampsen Park.

RUGBY UNION: Altrack Seven-a-Side Tournament. Bern, Newcastle and Jed-Forest have entered teams. First game is at noon, with the final at 5.45pm. Admission: £3 adults, children and parking free. Altrack RFC, Greensfield, Altrack, Northumbertand. (Tet: 01655 602242)

GUESTRANSSE Brigstock Horse Trials (Neutring). The trials cromprise advanced industry and the 150 stong entry list from 15 counties centeria all the leading beins. Ian Stan, Mark Todd, Mary King, Karen Down, Helen Belt, Kristina Gifford, and William Fox-Pitt are some of the talent company. Desiration of the talent company. Desiration of the talent company of Sunday at 9em. The short jumping starts at 10.15em, followed by the prose-country at 11.am. Societating is first tomore and 110 per car on Sunday. Ferring Woods Hall is on the Linker Benefield road, 1 miles morth-east of Brigstock, Kettering, Nerthamptonshire, on

of Brigstock, Verterrey, Northamptonshire, on A5116 between Corby and Threpston. Ston Easten Park Horse Triels (Bath). There will

Easton Park Horse Trials (Bath). There will be nonce creasing and show jumping amorow, with cross-country on Sunday from 9am. On Morday, the advanced notes compete, with dressage and snow jumping from 8.30am and cross-country from noon. Seventies bournate are represented and include the index, Mark Todd, Bayth Tar, Virgina Elbert and Andrew Nicholson. The Young Riders Advanced final is another nightight of the day, Admission: 18 per car. Son: Lestin, Batt. Add., is 12 miles south of Bristol on the A37 Stephan Master road at the junction with the A39.

HOVERCRAFT RACING: National Ricce Meeting (lyied). The opening found of the season combines mainly over land and water. All so classes are contested formulas One. Two and trope, Named, Junior and Formula 25. Produces, Named, Junior and Formula 25. Produces.

SUNDAY

profiles from the carcass, from equivocal identification that matched with the DNA profiles Shergar's offspring and hair the carcass is that of Shergar – samples taken from the borse but there is a very long and difbut there is a very long and difficult time ahead.

PICK OF THE DAY

THE WEEKEND/Drag racing

The Easter Triunderball at Santa Pod Raceway in Bedfordshire this

weetend opens the main drag rac-

are the main feature of a pro-gramme, which includes support

The Thunderball Santa Pod

ing on how the owners of Sher- terial is between 12 and 13 gar's offspring respond.

"A DNA profile has to be tracted and uncertain business."

> Funay Cars of Gary Page and John Spuffard. Because of a smaller wheelbase, Funny Cars are difficost to handle and are notorious for their enatic movement on the quarter mile strip. Completing the weekend will be demonstrations of jet cars - noisy, flame-souring machines powered by jet engines and very fast.

ing season. With spinning tyres and burning rubber, the Top Alcohol dragsters and Pro-Modified cars How to get there's Satis Pod Raceway, Bed-fordsire, is agropated from priction J.S. M.I. Weekend lighter (three days): £35. Saturday, genetically reflying: £11 adults. Surfay, fusi-hyting: £13.50. Monday (efficient) fusi-nities: £36.50. Children aged £1.56 are hatf-price, under 11s. free. Action 15, from 10mms Gan daily. Admission solucies camp-ing. (tel: 01234 782828). races for the UK Superges cham-pionship, Sportsman classes and motorcycles. There will be a three-round match between the Top Fuel

tice is from 11am on Sunday and recing con-trues to 6pm. On Monday, 11am to 4.50pm. Admission: £2 advits, £1 children under-16, under-free free, Wetersports Centre, Denga-marsh Road, Lydd, Kent.

under-fives fires. Wetersports Centre, Dengemarsh Road, Lydd, Kent.
MOTOCROSS: British Championship (Wakes
Coine). Surfan Evers, the 250cc world champion from Beigum, was given a wid card to
ride on the British championship. After two
rounds he has won five reces but of 5x in the
open class and on Surfay looks to extend that
lead. Practice starts at 9.30am, the first supportrace is at 11am, flowed by the first supportrace in the seven-strong programme. Racing
starts at 1.30pm. Admission: 15 and the first in
Formula Ford championship is the other man
rece in the seven-strong programme. Racing
starts at 1.30pm. Admission: 15 adults, 13
12-16 year-olds, under 12s free. Knockali Circult is five miles north-vest of Duffermine,
File, on A223. (Tet 01383 723337). Spring
National Meeting filterwood, The first his carb
meeting at Harewood has season features a
1.43-car entry, with singes seaters, seloots,
sports car and decest sports care. Practice
starts at 9am, with reang from 1pm. Admisson: 15 eduks, children under-14 free.
Harewood Mil Cartin, Socioun Farm, is seven miles north-east of Leeds on A559 between

en mass north-east of Leeds on ASS9 between Harewood village and Collegnam. (Tel: 0113 288 5391). FOOTBALL: FA Carling Premiership and End-sleigh League programmes. RUGBY LEAGUE: Stones Super League.

NUCEY UNDON: Hence of Wesh League First Dissort Aberson v Cardif (2.30): Cub Match-es: Banymaen v Neam (2.30): Bridgend v Meester (2.30); Cross Keys v Abersam (2.30): Newport v London Welsch (2.30): Tre-degar v Ebbe Vale (2.30). degar v Elsow Vale (2:30).

PACING: KEMPTON: Club £15, Juniors 116 to 25-year-olds) £12; Grandstand £10; Silver Ring £5. Accompanied chidden under 16 free. (2:10). WARWICK: Club £12 (16 to 24-year-olds £6); Tacersalis £6; Course £5; (2:35). NEWCASTLE: Club £12; Tanersalis £9; Silver Ring £4 £2; for OAPs and registered desplect). (2:25). NOTUNGHAMI. Club £12 (Juniors, 16-21 years, £8); Tattersalis £8; Silver Ring and Paddock £4, (2:20). Carlister Club £12; (OAPs and under 21s £9); Tattersalis £6; (0:3Ps and under 21s £9); Tattersalis £6. (0:3Ps and under 21s £9); Tattersalis £10 (OAPs

E5). Course £5 (OAPs £3). (2.0). Faicenham: Members £12: Grandstand and Poddock £8; Course £4 teacompaned under-16s free all enclosures). (2.30). Hereford: Club £12: Tatiersels £9; course existence £5. (2.30). Huntingdoct Members £12; Paddock £8; Course £4. (2.0). Market Rasen: Club £12; Tatiersels £8 (OAPs who are members of course's Jubies Club Days £2.50). (2.15). Newton Abbott: Tatiersels £8.50; Course £4. Accompaned under-16s free. (2.15). Plusipton: Members £12; Tattersels £8; Course £4. (2.30). Fowcester: Members £12; Tattersels £8; Course £4. (2.31). Vibraceter: Oub £15 (OAPs £12); Tattersels £10 (OAPs £7); Course £3. (2.15). Wetherby: Club £12 (accompanied under-16s free); Tattersels £10; Cup £2. (2.15). Whetherby: Club £12 (accompanied under-16s free); Tattersels £7; Course £2. (Cars, Including up to 4 adults £6). (2.15). Whetherby: Club £12 (Lacompanied under-16s free); Tattersels £6). (2.15). Whetherby: Club £12 (Lacompanied under-16s free); Tattersels £6). (2.15). Whetherby: Club £12 (Lacompanied). E69; Carse £6.50); Tattersels £6). (2.15). Whetherby: Club £12; Course £2. (Cars, Including up to 4 adults £6). (2.15). Whetherby: Club £12; Course £1.250 (Lunder-16s free into all enclosures). 12.0). MOTORCYCLING: Motor Oycle News British. £5), Course £5 (OAPs £3), (2.0), Fak

IZ.O).
MOTORCYCLING: Motor Cycle News British Superbise Champlonship (Thruston). The lenge 45-strong entry includes the defending champion, Stree Rislop, who leads the Nemess Kewasak team challenge in the third and fourth rounds. Untimed warm-up is from 9am, with reding from noon. Admission: £13 adules, secondonaved children 15 and under free. Official qualifying will be held tomorrow. Iron 9am to 5pm; £6, free. Oh Sunday, the Supercross on the adjoining rough ground setures 18 races; practice from 10.30cm, racing from 12.30pm; £8, free. Thruston Circuit is fire miles west of Andower, Hampshire, on A303. (Tel: 01264 772696).
MOTOR RACING: Auto Trader RAC Touring Car

A303. (Tel: 01284 772696).

MOTOR RACING: Auto Trader RAC Touring Car
Champronship (Donington Park). The first two
rounds of the popular touring car champronship
feature at Donvirigion on Easter Monday. John
Celand, the defending champion, tops the entry with his new Yauurtall Vectra. Other frontrunner include Alain Menu, the twice
runner-up who drives a Williams-run Renault runner-up who tinves a Williams-run Renault Laguna, and Will Hoy, who remains with the Didgot team to mourt a challenge for the title he won in 1991. Rading starts at 10am. Admission: £14 adults, accompanied children under-16 free. (Sunday's qualifying a transam-5om, £6, free), Donington Park, Castle Donington, Derby, is three mids from junctions 23A/24 of M1/M42/M42 Flet: 01332 a10048).

FOOTBALL (7.30 unless stated); Tuesday: Endsleigh insurance League First Division:

JUST THE TICKET: a weekly guide to what's on where for the sporting spectator

Leicester v West Bromwich 17.45); Lution v Skole (7.45), Second Divisions Boumermouth v Swansea (7.45); Brighton v Bumley (7.45); Noris Courny v Bristol Rovers (7.45); Shrew-bury v Chesterfield, Third Divisions Scarborough Bury, Ball's Scottish League Premier Division: Parack v Aberdeen, Ex Porth Cup earth-final first leg: West Harn v Wimbledon (7.0). Wednesday: Endeleigh Insurance League Premier Division: Petit v Kimernock (7.45); Hearts v Rangars, Thursday; GM Vauchaff Conference: Bromsgrove v kettering (7.45). RUGBY LEAGUE: Truesday: Stones Super League Halifax v Casteford (7.30). Priday: Stones Super League: Warmington v Halifax (7.30), Second Division: Barrow v South Wales (7.30). Water 17.50.

RUGEY UNION: Wednesday: Courage Clobs'
Championehlip National League One:
Goucester v Bath (7.0), Willis Corron Hibernia
Cup: Royal Navy v RAF (3.0) (at Ywicker/nam).

RACING (Flat meetings in capitals): SOUTH-WELL (All Weather): Club £12; Tattersalls £6 WELL (All Weather): Club E12; Tattersals 56 10AP members of course's Diamond Club £4, accompanied under 16s free). (2.0). Uttox-eser: as Monday, (2.10). Wetherbry: as Mon-day, (2.20). Wednesday: RIPON: Club £12; Tattersals £8: Silver Ring £4; Course £2 (ac-Tettersals £6; Silver Rng £4; Course £2 (accompanied under-16s fire all enclosures). 12.10). Evebert Grandstand and Paddock £9; Silver Rng £4.50 (accompanied under-16s fire). (2.0). Worcesters Members £12.50; Tattersalls £9.50; Course £5 (OAPs £2.50). (2.0). Thursday: NAMILION: Club £12; Grandstand and Paddock £1 (£4 for OAPs, desibled and students, £10 for couples); accompanied under-16s fire all ancio-scress £2.00. Chelhardhams £10 for couples); accompanied under-16s free all ancio-scress £2.20. Chelhardhams £0 and Tattersals £0; comband £12 (purios; 16-24 years, £8); Fos-ter's Enclosure £5, (1.55), Fortivels; Cub £12; Junior Cub 112 to 15-year-olds) £2, under 12s free; Tattersalls £8 (socompaned under-16s free); Silver Rng £4 (2.10), Friday; BEV-ERLEY: Club £12; Junior Club 16 to 21-year-olds) £8; Tattersalls £8; Silver Rng £3; Course Enclosure £2, (2.20), BRIGHTON: Cub £12 (accompanied under-16s free); Tat-tersals £6; Silver Rng £4 (inc £4 per £8). NEXT WEEKEND NEXT WEEKEND

PEAN TREASURATION TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE v Norwich (3.0).

RIGGY LEAGUE: Saturday: Stones Super Lague: Oldham v Leeds (6.0); Paris v Wort-ington (7.0). RIGGY UNION: Saturday: Courage Clubs' Championship and Insurance Corporation insh League.

Insh League.

RACING: Saturday: WARWICK: as Monday.
1.50) WOLVERHAMPTON (AW): Club £15:
Tamersalis £6 (OAP members of Diamond Club £41; Viewing Restauram £25.90 including entrance and meal. (7.0). Assorts Members £16.
Ulumor Members £6.25 years, half proce;
Grantstand and Paddock £10: Silver £ng £5.
(2.0). Newton Abbott as Monday. (2.0).
Sedgefield: Paddock £8 (OAPs £4); Course £2. (1.25).

Pian ahead Next month, the best female gymnas's in Europe will be in Birmingham, competing in the European Champiorships. Held every two years, the 21st championships are being staged at the Na-tional Exhibition Centre from the 16 to

Such is the strength of the sport in Europe that su, of the world's 10 lead-ing individuals are taking part, including Lilia Podkopayeva, the all-round wold champion from the Ukraine. The British team will be announced on 25 April, but is likely to include Armka Reeder, who made history two years when she be-came the first British female to reach a European final in the floor discipline.

a European final in the floor discipline. The then 14-year-old proceeded to be-come England's youngest gold medal-list at the Commonwealth Games. For the sentor gymnasts, it will be the final test of their skill before the Olympic Games. Twenty-six senior and 31 jurior teams, comprising some ECO. 500 gymnasts compete in the team south gymnasis compete in the isamevent over the first two days. The leading 24 individuals then go on to contest the individual all-round title on saturday 18 May and the top eight from each of the four apparatus will compete in the finals of the individual disciplines on Sunday. on Sunday. Spectators will also be able to visit

the "Gymnastics Sports Exhibition", which is being held in the Forum, next door to the Centre. This is free to all tendance.
For spectators intending to stay over for the championships, the official ac-

commodation agent is the Birmingham Convention and Vistors Bureau, who can offer a variety of packages, ranging from form one to four nights bed-andast accommodation at hotels to sust all needs and budgets.

European Gymnasdc Championships for Women, Birningham, 16-19 May. National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham is off junction sk of M42 from M1 and M6. Tickets: Thursday Jopening time 10am; pro-gramme; junior team session 1 and 2, open-

ricies: Inuser team session 1 and 2, opening ceremony, unior team session 31: 215,
£10 adults, £6, £4 children/OAPs: Friday
(1Carri, senior team sessions 1, 2, 3): £18,
£15 adults, £11, £9 children/OAPs: Sanday
(1Carri, senior team sessions 1, 2, 3): £18,
£15 adults, £11, £9 children/OAPs. Sunday
(1Carri, senior and junior all-mud firels): £25,
£20 adults, £17, £15 children/OAPs. Sunday
(1Carri, senior and junior individual firels): æ5
Saunday, Season bolete, £78, £50 adults, £46,
£38 children/OAPs. European Gymnastics
Championships for Woman, NEC Bor Office,
PO Bos £348, Burmagnam B40 INS. Credir cards 0121 767 4848. There is a booking
fee per tichet, Tickets can be booked in person from the NEC box office (1Cam-Spin Monday to Sunday), Internetonal Conference
Centre, Bread Street, Birmingham (0121 £12)
3333: 1Cam-8pin Monday to Saunday).
Birmingham Convention and Visitors Bureau,

Birmingham Convention and Visitors Bureau, NEC, Sirmingham B40 1NT, (Tel: 0121 780 4321; fac: 0121 780 4260).

Details of forthcoming events with information on tickets and venues should he sent to: The Sports Desk, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, Fax: 0171 293 2894.

Compiled by Paul Maher

Roe ready for Augusta's ups and downs

golfers. Preparations have entered their final week for the year's first major championship, the US Masters.

Colin Montgomerie, and others, are in action in the Bell South Classic at the Atlanta Country Club. With its hilly. tree-lined fairways and fast greens, conditions are similar to those at Augusta National, only

a two-hour drive away.

Nick Faldo has decided to speod time at home oo the range - the practice range at Lake Nona, which is also the base for his coach, David Lead-

Considerable fine tuning will be going on under the Floridian sun after the 1989 and '90 Masters champion missed the

And Mark Roe? Spring has arrived in the Derbyshire Dales. hut Roe has yet to venture far from his cottage. He has been hard at work in the kitchen. The cat is wondering when its food bowl will once again contain its regular diet, rather than ined-ible-looking golf halls. "The line in here is about the

right pace," Roe says of his attempt to recreate the conditions of Augusta's ootorious greens. There is no Stimpmeter handy to check, but certainly there will not be a course in the country that currently compares with the top-of-the-scale 12 reading to be found at Augusta. "I like putting on fast greens. I wouldn't think those at Augusta are going to be faster than those at Shin-

April is here and Georgia is on cut in the Players' Champi-the minds of the world's best onship last week. US Masters is honing his game in his

Derbyshire kitchen. Andy Farrell reports oecock Hills for the US Open missed the cut by one shot. "I'm

still recovering from the trau-

ma," he says. "I have tried 11

different models of Ping putter

this week trying to find the right one for Augusta's greens." The invitation to his first US

Masters arrived last Christmas

Eve, "I was trying to think who would send me a Christmas card

from Augusta." The reply was written out within 20 minutes.

He leaves on Saturday and

hopes to get in a quiet practice

"I am looking forward to

playing my first round there and

seeing the place for myself. I

round on Sunday before the

hordes arrive from Atlanta.

last year, or at Valderrama. But it is the slopes on the greens that makes Augusta so tricky. I've had a chat with some of the lads who have played there, and they say the art of playing Augusta is to keep the ball under the hole. Barry Lane told me the first time be played there he had a putt from 20 feet behind the hole on one green, and ended up 40 yards off the front."

Last week. Roe played in the Madeira Island Open. Oo greens with considerable grain, Roe took three putts seveo times and four putts once; be

20 years. TV flattens the course and takes out the borrows. I naturally hit the hall right-to-left. which you have to do there, so

that is not a problem.

"Apparently, it is wide open, there is no rough. It is just important to put yourself in the right position so that you can stay uoder the hole. That's what I'll have to get a feel for in the practice rounds. But, obviously, you know from TV that the way the course is manicured and the way it is presented is second to none. It looks like beaven on earth too as far as a golfer is concerned."
Roe qualified for what is the

most exclusive show in golf by finishing 13th, the top Euro-pean, in last June's US Opeo. That performance was a bea-

have watched it on television for con in an otherwise desolate season. His marriage broke up and he has recently admitted to being on the verge of

> After finishing 126th on the Order of Merit, he appreciates the irony of the situation. This is the year I least deserve to go, he says. Still, a top-24 finish would guarantee a return visit oext year, and iocrease TV time for the sunflower he wears in his cap in aid of the Rainbow House charity for terminally ill children.

> "My game has slowly been getting better," Roe, who has made one cut in six events, says. "I've abandoned plan 47h and gone back to what I always used to do which is to play with my hands. My head is a lot clearer than it was last year. My per-



sonal problems are sorted out I'm ready to start playing well again. I can normally pull my game together for the big oc-

"I am so excited. I am being very careful not to fall or trip over and twist an ankle, or knock an arm. I'm being awfully careful." As he will have to be on those Augusta greens.

Williams attack second target

o half-reage

Derick Alisop on the opening of motor sport's most exciting series

Williams' domination of the early stages in the Formula One world championship provides the promoters of "im-top" racing with further evidence they have the most exciting sport on four wheels.

As the grand prix procession: wings its way from Brazil to Argentina this weekend, the freedom fighters of the British Touring Car Championship gather at Donington Park for their first skirmishes of the season on Monday.

Here too, ironically, the Williams-run Renault is high v fancied, but on this track the Anglo-French organisation can anticipate a contest. It is the areoa of genuine competition, of wheel-to-wheel, door-banging spectacle, in cars that actually resemble those on the road.

The appeal and potential of this racing are such that FIA. motor sport's governing body, have been moved to get in on the act. They have taken under their wing the International Tonring Car Championship, which includes a round at Silverstone in August.

Some have suggested a bidden agenda, that the FIA's underlying motive is to stifle the growth of this precocious child est it should upstage their number one son.

What is clear is that touring car racing has become a booming business and entertainment industry, and the BBC, shunted off the Formula One circuit from next year by ITV, have made a long-term commitment which will double their coverage of the British Championship and include showing

some races live. Audi joined the entries this season with a formidable CV. They have won German, Italian and French titles, and their German driver, Frank Biela, won the World Cup at the end of last season. More importantly they have been hugely impres-

sive in recent testing. Another German manufacturer, BMW, have revamped their challenge after a modest strong driver line-up in Jo Winkelhock, the 1993 champi on, and Italy's Roberto Ravaglia. Ford also have a new look to their bid, entrusting the operation with West Surrey. Racing, the team that provided Ayrton Senna with his Formula Three equipment in 1983. The established New Zealander, Paul Radisich, is joined by. Britain's Steve Roberts.

Honda and Peugeot predict marked improvement in their form this year, while the title holder, John Cleland, accepts that momentum may be some time coming in the Vauxhall

Menlivens o

Renault suspect their fiercest opposition will come from Volvo, who in turn play down any notion that they might he favourites. Renault's Swiss driver, Alain Menu, intent on. adding the individual prize to last season's team award, said: "Lots of people are telling me I'm favourite, but Volvo looks pretty strong and I guess everybody is going to be strong

The democracy of the BTCC is it is strength, and one man who will miss it is the 1994 champion, Alfa Romeo's Gabriele Tarquini. The Italians have pulled out to coocentrate on the international championship. Neil Warrior, a spokesman for Alfa-said: "The BTCC is a greatchampionship and has been great for us in Britain, but ITC gives the opportunity to exploit and develop the kind of technology you may not find even in Formula One.

We feel the ITC, with FIA. will grow and grow. But there is no reason why that should interfere with a thriving British championship, and certainly does not overlap Formula One.

"Any manufacturer needs to concentrate on one or the oth-er. It is very difficult to compete in two to the level required. The important point is that people who love motor racing have plenty of exciting touring-car

racing to enjoy."

Tarquini says he hopes he and Alfa will be back in Britain when the new Giulietta is up and running. For me, it's the hest championship in Europe," he said. Which is what the men from the BTCC have been say-

ing all along.

Brainsh Touring Car Championship: a April Donington Park 21 April Brands Hatch: A April Donington Park 21 April Brands Hatch: 3 May Sheetstone; 27 May Outton Park: 18 June Sheetstone 69: 28 July Anochrill: 11 Aug Outton Park: 26 Aug Impator; 3 Sep Donington: 22 Sep Brands Hatch GP: 14 July Sheetstone 69: 28 July Anochrill: 11 Aug Outton Park: 26 Aug Impator; 3 Sep Donington: 22 Sep Brands

Ball takes the hard approach

Hugh Matheson meets the Cambridge stroke who will set an aggressive tempo for his crew in tomorrow's Boat Race

James Ball, the stroke of the paddle a few strokes and pick Cambridge crew which will race for its fourth successive Beefeater Trophy tomorrow afternoon, will attract attention for leading the crew from bow side, and for taking the seat from last year's winning stroke, Miles

However, he may be the key president, John Carver, says: difference in a

remarkably even race. "He 'If a vest looked doesn't know how good he likely I'd go for of the Light it - and the Blue coaching leam, before same would be discussing his high power to true if a medal

He divided his time at King's School, Chester, between rowing on the river Dee the minibus to Ely for 25 minand surfing at various points on the north Wales coast. Rowing, where you are in a crew of eight people who are entirely de-

weight ratio and

fluid rhythm.

"It's best on the sunny days when there's a hig low, out in the Atlaotic, putting the waves in," he said. "You sit out in the asked if they thought he was do-

for a social life than surfing -

up the swell that turns into a wave that carries you for 30 to 50 seconds. Then you paddle back out with the help of a rip tide and tell tall tales of how good it was."

His crew nickname is "Billy No-friends" but the Cambridge

> juite popular. It's just that be's happy on his own, particularly wheo training." Kev Whyman, the coxswain, was a

year hehind

"He's actually

Bail at school. was in prospect' "He was more one of the lads man said. "Now he can sit or utes with his head in a book, while the locker-room talk re-

say a word. pendent on one another, odd-by, gave him fewer opportunities able times when things go wrong. In the January training where it is dangerous to be camp in Spain, there was some confusion over the finish point of a race and, after explaining the coaches' breeding to them in a volley of swearwords, he

volves around him, and never



Cambridge's James Ball in training this week. 'He doesn't know how good he is,' say his coaches

aggressive racing personality and put him at stroke.

This engaging talker is a highly concentrated person who is prepared for big sacrifices when he has set himself a target. After finishing fourth at the Junior World Championships, deep chatting to friends, then ing this for fun. Perversely, in a coxed four, he gave up

with the surfboard.

On his return to Cambridge he opted to row and started training a week before the start of his first term. "I missed all the fresher's 'get to know you' stuff. Luckily I stayed friends with a few people I met early on, but missed a befty slice of social ife: in bed early, just training and working. In the second year you can make compro-

When I arrived I was well down on fitness and faced the could win," he said. He is credchop several times but hung on ited with holding the crew

they liked this as evidence of his rowing for his year off and and at the end of the first term, went to California and Bali I thought there was an outside chance of the Blue Boat," He did not make it but won the reserves race in the Goldie crew by 14 lengths and, more crucially, went

on, after summer rowing, to

win the trials for the Under-23 World Championships. He professes no clear amhition and, when he went to the Netherlands, the crew was anxious only to avoid last place io the final. "We got faster each race but only when we took the lead at half-way did I believe we

together and driving it over the last 1,000m to win the gold by

He is slowly acknowledging that he might have further to go. "I would go to senior trials with low expectations but if a vest looked likely 1'd go for it - and the same would no doubt be true if a medal was in prospect." His doubts of his ability are more likely to be the defensive reactions to the possibility of failure than to a genuine shortcoming.

Off the water, Ball is a throwback to the first hundred years of the event, which produced eight bishops. He is reading

does not want rugby to under-sell itself. He heads the Second

Division chibs' body and having

had experience of the teething

troubles when football set up its Premiership - which rugby is adopting as a blucprint - he

does not want rugby to make the

planned for the moment are informal, again not what the clubs

want. They are in a position of

strength having already set up an administrative structure, Eu-

ropean Rugby Clubs Ltd, which encompasses the Five Nations

as well as Italy. And if agree-ment cannot be reached in time

then English Professional Rug-

by Unioo Clubs Ltd. who rep-

resent the First and Second

Unfortuoately the only talks

same mistakes.

when it cames to negotiating ate their own sponsorship and broadcastiog rights. Sir John television deals for a playing

Photograph: Robert Hallam theology at Robinson College but he is keen to make clear that theology these days is much more comparative religion and philosophy than vocational training for an English parish and, as this implies, he is in

closer touch with his emotions than God He is not clear about what he would like to do. He is not drawn to the City "which has be-come a hit of a thing for Cam-hridge Blues." What a future employer will get is a highly motivated self-consciously disciplined achiever, long on deeds

television deals for a playing

structure which would guaran-

tee clubs the necessary 15 or 16

home matches they need to sup-

port wage-bills ranging from £750,000 to £1.5m.

That of course would mean

that all the top players would have commitments elsewhere

leaving the RFU without any as-

sets, since, as the clobs point out, the Five Nations Champi-

onship is the chief soorce of

Twickenham's revenues, and

without the big-oame players there would be little to tempt

the television companies and

sponsors. As one EPRUC offi-

cial put it recently, "We have a

loaded gun, but we do not want to pull the trigger."

There is definitely a guo be-

ing held at the head of the game, the question is, whose hand is on it?

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Based oo egarvalent recommonded tartiis 32 mms was of off-peak calls. Hopetage redoces ekee peak-time calls are made.

Clubs slide closer to schism

Rugby Union DAVID LLEWELLYN

The solit no one wants is widening between the Rugby Football Union and England's top clubs. With just 32 days remaining before the moratorium on professionalism is lifted on 6 May the two sides are oo nearer agreement. The mood in the clubs' camp has swung from disappointment to anger in the last

That anger could manifest itself io the long-threatened breakaway, even though the top clubs' official body, English First Division Rugby Limited and their Second Divisioo equivalent insist that is not at all what they want. "There is no way we want to break away," ald Kerr. "We are trying to be

rugby could not have been bet-ter illustrated than yesterday,

when Newcastle got their man and Moseley did not, writes

David Llewellyn. The reason of

course is money.

Newcastle's director of rugby,

Rob Andrew, secured the sig-nature of West Hartlepool's full-back Tim Stimpson, who has impressed at England A level, but their Second Division colleagues

Moseley appeared to have lost

out to Orrell in the race to sign the former All Black stand-off

Frano Botica, who plays rugby league for Castleford.

Stimpson's move deeper into

constructive, trying to be real-istic. The breakdown of discussioos concerns us much more than a possible break-

Newcastle's chairman, Sir John Hall, is confident there will be on breakaway. "Common sense will prevail if everybody cares for rugby, as they say they do," he said. But EFDR were angered by

chairman, Cliff Brittle, insisting that Twickenham retains full control of running the game, in-cluding television negotiations. The soul of rugby was not for sale, Brittle insisted at the weekend, when the senior clubs

the RFU's executive committee

from the First and Second Di-visions boycotted the last round

The clubs maintain that by going forward together they will have a far stronger hand

Division members would reluctantly go ahead and negoti-Stimpson opts to join Andrew at Newcastle The harsh facts of oew-age the North-east involved a lot of

soul searching on the part of the West Hartlepool captain. "It's a very exciting prospect," Stimp-son, 22, said last night. "Of all the clubs I could have joined I feel Newcastle will be extremely competitive next year in the Sec-ond Division. And I feel they will become a major force in the game in years to come."

important signing for us. Tim has had an outstanding season with England A. A lot of clubs have been after him, but I've been after him right from the word go. It's been a difficult decision for him, he feels a sense of respon-quite a while, but so have a lot

sibility to West. It's a decision he has thought about very carefully." Stimpson, who captained

Durham University, will stay at Brierton Lane until the end of the season, although how often he turns out depends oo how quickly he recovers from a rib njury sustained in the Hong Kong Sevens last weekend. He certainly misses Orrell's visit to

West tomorrow. Orrell had to outbid Moseley, who had reportedly offered £40,000 to Bolica, and Peter Williams, Moseley's director of rugby, admitted: "We have been talking to Frano for

of other clubs. Orrell have made him a substantial offer, possibly for two years, and he is thinking things over."

Moscley have decided not to

increase their offer and are re-signed 10 losiog out. "We haven't heard from Frano yet but I would presume that at some stage he will give me a call to say be has accepted Orrell's offer." Moseley's playing di-rector, Barrie Corless said. "We are not going to get involved in a Dutch auction. Orrell have offered him more than we have and, if the figures we have heard are accurate, we don't even get to the start line."

good nick

ing home

ರೀತ್ರಣ ಲ್ಯಾಕ್ಟ್ರ

No half-measure for eager Staines

Round about the half-way point of this month's Flora London Marathon, as Cable Street gives way to the Commercial Road, Gary Staines may hear a little voice inside his head telling him to pull over and take a wellearned breather.

For the last two years, this stretch of the capital's highway system has marked the finisb of the event for Staines in his capacity as a paid pacemaker for established marathon runners. Each time he has stepped out of the race having done the perfect job - last April he hit his half-way target of 631/2 minutes to the second.

But now the 32-year-old Belgrave Harrier is planning to go the full distance in what will be only the second marathon of his career. If his third experience of he London event runs to plan like the first two, he will establish his credentials as a bona fide marathon runner and challenge for the remaining Olympic marathon place on offer to the highest-placed Briton.

Like Richard Nerurkar, Paul Evans and the 1993 London winner Eamonn Martin, Staines bas come to marathon running after a successful career over 10,000 metres.

He can look back on highs which include a silver medal behind Salvatore Antibo in the 1990 European Championships, and a British 10-mile record in 1993. The lows include an

Mike Rowbottom talks to a runner set on finishing the London Marathon

Achilles tendon problem which kept him out of action through-out 1992, and a problem with asthma which ruined his appearance in the 1989 World Cup and makes sporadic impacts on his racing and training.

His coach, Alan Storey, is well acquainted with the prob-lem. "If the air quality is bad, Gary suffers," he said. "There have been a number of Tuesday nights when he has galloped round the track at Kingston sounding like a wounded pig. He makes so much noise because he can't

hreathe properly."
Staines has only run one previous marathon. It was in April of last year, soon after his second London pacing job; and it was not a happy occasion. Hav-ing selected a flat course in Vienna, he competed during a heatwave and missed a crucial drinks station, eventually finishing fourth in 2hr 16min 04sec.

His memories of London. though, are far more positive. In 1994 his joh was to keep Eamonn Martin in touch with the leading hunch, and after a mid-race breakaway he found himself carrying on to 15 miles to bring Martin hack into con- ducks are all right."

tact. "At that point I still felt great, be recalled. "I had trained to go 26 miles. You have to do that. It's no good thinking to yourself, 'I'm only doing half, I'll have a big fryup breakfast and run round in my trainers.

As spectators urged him to carry on, he confessed to momentary feelings of doubt. "I was slightly torn," he admitted. "But I didn't know if some disaster might happen around 19 or 20 miles which would put me

out of action for months." Since missing last month's world cross-country trials because of an ankle injury he has been running 140 miles a week, and won the Reading halfmarathon last weekend in 63:31 with plenty to spare. "There is no doubt that

Gary is pretty close to the top of the tree in British halfmarathon running," Storey said. "The question which should he answered on 21 April is whether he can transfer that ability to the longer event. He is obviously capable of running significantly quick-er than he did in Vienna. Whether that means 2.08 or 2.12 remains to he seen.

Air quality permitting, Staines is hoping to make a real impact. "This time," he said, "I'll be able to go round with out getting neck ache through making sure that all my little



Taking the air: Gary Staines, who is hoping for a smog-free race, trains yesterday for the London Marathon

d ir in age carwill ere the any

Oldham search for positive signs Bruno at home on The words that Oldham Ath-Manchester City, became the 30th player to pull on the blue shirt when he made his debut Guy Hodgson considers a club's swift decline from glory letic's assistant manager, Coldays to a struggle against dropping into the Second Division in Harvey, used this week

might have been more tactful.
We have nine cup finals to play," he said underlining the importance of the matches

the club has to play to avoid relegation from the First Disision. Meanwhile, a small Firner of Lancasbire shed a Cup finals were on the local mind anyway. How could they not he when Manchester United, the monster of merchandise down the road, had just reached

Wembley for a third year in succession. But in Oldham there was a poignancy about the attention on Cheisea's Mark Hughes last weekend beyond the possibility he might score against his old club. Two years ago, the Latics ap-

peared to he heading for the FA Cuo final. Indeed, under the twin towers, they were a matter of seconds away from a repeat trip to Wembley and a iamous win over United when jumped ship to Everton. Hughes struck a voiley that

Non-League notebook

The two most valuable strikers

in the non-League game en-

hanced their reputations with a

goal each in the England semi-

professional side's 3-1 victory

over the Netherlands at Rush-

den & Diamonds on Tuesday.

comfortable win for the Eng-

and team - and Carl Alford and

Barry Hayles were also on tar-

get in February's 4-0 win over the Republic of Ireland. For Al-

ford, Tuesday's goal was his sec-

ond in four days in front of his

new home crowd: he had scored

Rushden's only goal in their

It was the season's second

RUPERT METCALF

 $\gamma_{i,j} \in \mathcal{N}^{\mathcal{S}_i}$

pierced Oldham hearts. The replay was a massacre; the decline at Boundary Park virtually irresistible since.

Talk to Oldham supporters and they can barely believe tbey bave strayed so far from greatness when, so recently, they were on nodding terms. "When I think we might be play-ing Wycombe and Gillingham next season I could weep," a man buying a shirt for his grandson's birthday said outside the ground this week. "It's all gone wrong since Joe Royle

Which is not strictly true. Royle might have given the cluh their greatest years - a League Cup final and two FA Cup semi-finals – but they were also relegated from the Premiership under his guidance and were not exactly frightening anyone in the First when he If Royle sensed the arc had

2-1 home defeat by Halesowen

Town last Saturday, two days af-

ter his non-League record £85,000 move from Kettering. It is a measure of Rushden's

rapidly rising status that they

provided three of Tuesday's

starting line-up, quite a feat for a club outside the GM Vauxhall

Conference. One of the three,

midfielder Steve Stott, opened

the scoring in the fifth minute.

flicking in a cross from the left

by the Harrow Borough winger,

Another left-wing cross, from the Rushden left-back, Nick

Ashby, allowed Alford to hook

Lee Endersby.

gone heyond its high point, the downside has been sbarp. Injuries and lack of money bave

bitten deep and Tuesday's win in their first "final", against "We had an awful perfor-Grimsby, was only their third in 16 matches. They are in the relegation positions and the fixtures abead are less than promising. Tomorrow they play second-placed Derby County, one of six matches against of the season." teams from the division's top Harvey, who says that four 12 in their remaining eight

Even the win over Grimsby was naron SUITING. paper, the Evening Chronicle, described the performance as ed hope which has been in

"It was a major relief to win," Harvey said, standing in for the manager, Graeme Sharp, whose attention was on his daughter had hospital. "In

tre-forward, pulled one hack in

the 18th minute, hnt Endersby

skilfully set up the chance for

Hayles to drive in England's

third goal from the edge of the

It was the 31st goal of the sea-

son in all competitions for

Hayles, the highly rated Steve-

nage Borough striker and Con-

ference leading scorer. For

Endershy, a late call-up to the

injury-hit England squad, it

was a chance to shine on the in-

ternational stage for the first

time - and he took it, produc-

ing a vibrant first-half display. However, he faded in a dull sec-

area in the 33rd minute.

Alford enlivens quiet night at Rushden

in a 12th-minute goal to double ond half, when the Dutch off-

England's lead. Aschwin de side trap regularly caught out

Bruijn, the towering Dutch cen- the home attack.

effect we finish the season with five cup finals at home and four away. We won the first, so it's

mance against our fellow strugglers Reading last Saturday and a number of players owed us a game. They gave it to us and set standards they have to maintain against Derby and for the rest

wins will be enough to ensure Oldham's safety, points to injuries - particularly the back Dropiem that has sidelined Nick Henry for five months - as the major reason for their predica-"dour", adding it "would make ment, although fans point to the purists squirm". But it provides ale of Richard Jobson and day's game were Mike and the Paul Bernard this season and countless others in previous

For various reasons players have had to be used before their not appreciate the significance. time and it is symptomatic that Gerry Creancy, on loan from

The attendance was 1.660 - ad-

equate, but put in perspective by

the crowd of 3,481 at Nene Park

for Rushden's Beazer Homes

League game against Halesowen.

The international lacked passion

and atmosphere, and seemed

more like a pre-season friendly

than a competitive representative

match - problems that may not

be overcome until the authorities

can organise a home interna-

tional championship or, even

hetter, a semi-professional Eu-

ropean Championship.
ENGLANO (4-4-2): Price Macclesfield;
Webb (Odderminster), Smith (Stevenage).
Brown (Wolving), Ashby (Rushden); Hughes
Godderminster), Stotic (Rushden); Rose (Witter), Endersby (Harrow); Hayles (Stevenage), Afford (Rushden). Substitutes:
Kimmins (Hyde) for Afford, 75; Verables
(Stevenage) for Endersby, 84; Power (Wac-

ropean Championship.

at Reading.
"We've had problems getting
a settled side." Harvey agreed before locating the positive. "The kids who have come in have had to grow up quickly in a difficult situation and they've not done badly. They are young lads doing men's jobs.

They make mistakes hut you expect that with kids and hope they are not too costly. If we avoid relegation I think we'll be in a much better sbape

next season." The magnitude of "if" is only too apparent to everyone connected with the citib even it day's game were Mike and the Mechanics' "All I Need Is a Miracle" and Yazz's "The Only Way Is Up and there was barely anyone in the 5,037 crowd who did The smiles, you suspect, were hiding a hurt.

TODAY'S NUMBER

80,000

The number of spectators who are expected to watch Sunday's Indonesian Grand Prix, the second round of the 500cc motorcycle world championship. The race, at the Sentul track - which is owned by President Suharto's

voungest son - marks the country's debut on the world motorcycling circuit. However, Australia's Daryl Beattle, runner-up in last year's championship, has withdrawn from the race for health reasons.

the grand stage

Should any of the Heart of Midlothian players feel the hurden of 36 trophy-less years as they face up to Aberdeen in the semi-finals of the Tennents Scottish Cup tomorrow, they need only look for inspiration towards the swarthy figure of Pasquale Bruno.

The Italian, who will be hoping to produce a hetter result that his boxing namesake by landing the knock-out blow to Aberdeen's hopes of a domesue cup double, will he taking a their plight has not eradicated everyone's sense of humour. football leap of huge proportions when he steps out at the Hampden Park in front of 38,000 spectators.

Five semi-final defeats for Hearts will not play on the mind of a man who has experienced the ultimate in football: San Siro stadium with 80,000 screaming passionate fans. Bruno was a member of the Juventus side which won the Italian Cup final in that cathedral of world foothall with a 1-0 win, following a 0-0 draw in the first leg. After that, the prospect of Aberdeen and either Rangers or Celtic in the final is not one which keeps him awake at night.

"Anything can happen in cup finals, I know, hecause Milan were the best-known team in the world in 1990 with Gullit, Van Basten and Rijkaard. Yet we beat them in the best stadium in the world. Hearts against Aberdeen is to me like Torino against Roma, Rangers against Celtic is like Juventus against Milan. People fear Rangers and Celtic here because they are great clubs - but I know what can happen in a cup final."

The defender, who made his living in the toughest football school in the world, is breath- Bruno: Hearts' cult hero

David McKinney

meets the Hearts hard man with a growing reputation

ing fresher air in Scotland than he was allowed in the claustrophobic environment of the Italian circus. "You can hecome crazy

there," Bruno added. "The pressure is non-stop, the media are everywhere. If you change hair colour it's reported, if you change your car they write about it. The pressure can burst your brain. Milan, who have won everything, had their team hus stoned by the fans when they went out of the Uefa Cup. Can you imagine that, after all they have done? In Scotland, I can take my daughter to match-

es, 1 can relax and enjoy myself. "The foothall in Italy is better because they have hetter



Boris Becker has falled in recover from

Calre Taylor, the former national junior champion from Oxfordshire, beat the third seed, Sam Smith from Essex, 6-1, 6-2 in the final of the LTA women's

players, but here in Scotland everyone is just as passionate and the atmosphere is made by the stands, which are closer to the pitch. The people only want you to win, they won't tolerate inything clse.

"I envy you Hampden and the English Wembley, because there is no national stadium in Italy, no neutral venue, and I think you need that for cup fi-

Despite advancing years the is 53) Bruno has found that ar ticipation compensates for a loss of pace. At the heart of the defence, he has become a cult figure along his club's supporters -. while others are quick to point to a fiery temper which saw him sent off against Aberdeen in February. "There's always an element

of a gamble with new players, said Jim Jefferies, the Hearts manager, who was responsible for bringing Bruno to Scotland. There was no transfer fee involved and at the time we were bottom of the league. We are now fourth and in a cup semi-final, so it was a good deal for Hearts. He has brought a coolness to the defence and to what was a tense situation. He has composure and confidence with an exceptional positional

"You don't play 98 times for Juventus and 103 times for Torino without heing a good player. He's a real athlete who is showing the kids here how to look after themselves."

Jefferies, and every Hearts supporter, will be more than happy if Bruno can look after the young and the not-so-young players around him on the Hampden turf tomorrow af-

Guildford go in search of medals

Hockey

Guildford and Hightown, the English Cup holders, will this weekend be doing hattle in the European Cup-winners' competitions in the Netherlands. writes Bill Culwill.

Guildford, after yet another successful season in the National League, must surely hope for a medal in The Hague. where their major opponents in the pool games will be Germany's Durkheimer, who they meel in their final pool game on Sunday. A win against them should pit them against the host club and last year's runners-

up. HDM, in Monday's final. Hightown, who were surprisingly knocked out by Doncaster it the early rounds of this season's women's Cup competition. must pick themselves up after. collecting only one point from their two league games last weekend. Their crunch game will also be on Sunday against the host side. Rotterdam.

Atherics
Buigaria's 400 metres runner, Daniela
Georgieva, has been suspended, pending an appeal, after failing a drugs test
at a meeting in Budapest in January.
SOUTH AFRICAN GRAND PRIX (Selectad):
Men's 200 metres: 1,7 Reps (68) 20.33sec; 2
\$ Powea (3A) 20.66, January. 1,7 January.
\$0.24m; 2 P Spes (5A) 78.14, 1,10m tandles:
17 January (6B) 13.35sec; 2 J Nsanga (6B) 13.52. **Athletics**

Badminton

Basketball MBA: Cleveland 106 IA Lakers 88; Detrot 98 Char-lotte 83; New Jersey 100 IA Chesters 94; Indi-ona 102; Philadelphia 87 Ortando 98 New York 95; San Amono 117 Sacramento 96; Sacrile 118 Houston 103; Vancouver 105 Minnesota 103.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Badiminton

Brouser Namonal Champhonssep's (Norwich)
Somi-finals: Men's doubles: S Archer (Norwich)
Somi-finals: Men's doubles: S Archer (Norwis)
and C Hunt (Lancs) tr. N Paneser Yorks) and N
Wheeslay (Nottes) 18-15 15-11; J Andersen and
I Pearson (Essey) tr. C Jennings and A Redman
(Letts) 15-3 15-0. Whoman's doublest: J BradLuty (Doon) and J Wright (Sussex) br. O Kellogg
(Deroys) and J Wright (Lancs) 15-7 15-4. J Dewest
Junea and E Craffin (Surrey) to G Goverts (Herts)
and S Hardaler (Norm) 15-7 15-10. Natural doupless: S Archer (Vitora) and J Bradbury (Doon) br.
J Robertson (Notis) and J Cole (Worss) 18-13 15-3.
N Ponting (Goost and J Wright (Sussex) bt. C Hunt
(Lancs) and G Gowers (Herts) 15-8 15-4. †Seettle

Baseball

AMERICAN LEASUE Marreson 15 Detect 7; Chicago Wirre Son 4 Sentile 2; IN Yankees S Cisceland 1; Battmore 7 Karcas Cis, 1; Texas 7 Boston 2; Californa 3 Milwakee 2; Tomoto 10 Cadand 4, NATIONAL LEAGUE; St Louis 5 New York Mess 3; Son Dieso 7 Chicago Cubs 5; Houston 5 Los Angeles 2; Montreal 8 Candinata 4; Philadelpha 3 Colorado 1; Atlanta 15 San Françaco 2.

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514 17½
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50 .306 41½
53 .264 44₯

19 .740 -22 .694 3½ 30 .589 11 41 .431 22½ 49 .329 30 51 .301 32 60 .167 41½ 15 .735 -27 .625 12½ 35 .514 20½ 35 .514 20¼ 39 .458 24½ 42 .425 27 47 .365 31½

Golden

LA Clippers

* cinched play-off bern

* cinched play-off bern t clinched divisional title. The Newcastle Comers veteran Ken Nottage is to retire after 19 seasons in the National League. His last appearance will be on Sunday against the Leopards.

Billy Hardy's European featherweight ti-tie defence against Italy's Stefano Zoff, scheduled for San Remo on 25 April, has been postponed. The 31-year-old champion from Sunderland has been granted five weeks to allow a shoulder injury to mend. Steve Rootinson, the former World Box-ing Organisation world featherweight champion, has been offered the chance

to light form Johnson, of the United es, next month for his international Boxing Federation trie. PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION (York Hall, Bechnic Grown, Wednesday): 13-rd Commonwealth middleweight fider R VecCocker; 13-rd gran, holder) bt P Busty (Warcester) ver 7-rd.

Cricket ENGLAND A (v The Rest, Chelhenham, 20-23 April: N Husseln (Esser, capt), N V Knight (War-netts), A McElrath (voirse), O P Ostern (Narweis), J C Pooley (Middlesent, R C Inani (Essex), K J Piper (Warweis, wid.), 1D K Selisbury (Susses), O W Headley (Kent), R O Stemp (Yarls), T A Munton (Narweis), E S H Glddins (Susses), HERRORI (Warwices), C.S. In waterins (sussess).

THE REST: R. C. Russall (Gloucs, capt/wic), M.
D. Moyon (Yods), J.E.R. Gallien (Lancs), J.P. Cravilay (Lancs), G.P. Thorpe (Surrey), M.R. Russprateash (Anddeseq, M. Watidoson (Lancs), R.
L. Johnson (Anddeseq, M. Watidoson (Lancs), R.
L. Johnson (Anddeseq, M. R. Illingsyorth (Wors),
M.C. Yott (Esser), G. Chapple (Lancs), P. M. Hutchistran (Yods).

Football

Pedro Santana Lopes resigned yester-day as president of Sporting Lisbon in resident Sanisa Liples Testigned yesterday as president of Sporting Liston in
order Impursue his political ambitions.
WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: European Cop
Sent-Index first keg. Ago. O Panadrunkos 1;
Juserus 2 Narues 0, FA Carting Premierable.
Leeds 1 Southampton 0; Liverpou 4 Newcastle
1. Endesteigh Insurance League First Didaton:
Sone 2 Vitnes 0, Second Division: Saniston 3
Bigition 2 GM Vanchell Conference: Son 3
Study 1 Spalding Challenge Cop Semi-Inais
second leg. Macufesteld 2 Southport 1
(Maccleaflet into 6-5 on eggregate): Reteming 2
Entrafgree 1 (Brondgree son 3-2 on
aggregate). Iois League Premier Division:
Kriseny 3 Wytung 1. UniBond League
Premier Division: Premier Division:
League Premier Division: Newport AFC 1
Atherstone 2. Midland Division: Dudley 4
Genetican 1: Solitus Sottogt 1 Bury Town 1
Southarn Division: Premier Indiad
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Father, Or Martons Cup semi-fines second legi-Sations O Saverny O. Merevand United Counties League Premier Division: Particles Town 3 Marties Sacrostine O. Norther Cookies East League Premier Division: Bag 3 Arnold 1: Indian 1 Martiet Mart 4. Federation Brisway Northern League First Division: Seature Red Sar 1 West Northern 2 League Cup semi-final: Whith, 8 South Sweets 5. Witnesoniesal Need League First Division: Darling 4 Participant 3 League South Western Leagues Fathana 1 Leagueston 3. League of Welley Tor Particle 1 Abenyston 2

SPORTING DIGEST Leagus Cup semi-final first leg: Ebbw Vale 0
Barry O. Poordes League First Division: Botton
3 Sheffled Led C) Oldnam 0 Birmingsam 4.
Second Division: Bradford City O Bamsley 1:
Burnley 1 Romenam 2: Gamsty 3 York 1;
Lenessar 0 Backbool 0; Manchester City 1:
Surderland 0: Mansfeld 1 Huddersfield 2;
Preston 1 Hud 0. Third Division: Lincoln 0
Walsal 2; Rochdale 0 Scattorough 1:
Stremskury 6 Sourmorpe 0; Chesterfeld 1
Wigan 0. Avon Insurance Combination First
Division: Avsenal 1 Lucion 2; Charlton 3 Chebsel
0; Chystal Palace 2 Potermoun 1: Ipsaich 2
Bristol Rovers (r. Norwich 7 Sourhampton 2;
Defort Und 1 Wirmsloon 1: Watthord 0 Queen's
Park Rangers 3, Second Division: Torquey 2
Plymouth 1; Bournemouth S Bath 0.

ice hockey NHL: Washington S Buffato 1: Boston 4 Mon-treel 1: Ottawa 3 Flonda 2: Tempe Bey 4 Hart-ford 2: Chicago 5 Toronto 2: Winnipeg 3 Dallas 1: St Louis 6 Colorado 3: Calgary 4 Vannouver 3: Anahern 1 Edmonton 0: Detroit 2 Los Ange-

Rugby League Leigh have signed the St Helens full-

Middlesbrough v Sheffield Wed (5.45) ... ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

PEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE

First Division: RTM Newcastle v Tow Law; Shiden v West Auckland.

Bernstaçãe v Bideford; Celine v Chippenham (11.30); Mangotsfield Utd v Brislington;

Paulton Rovers v Frome (11.0); Twenton Town v Emicre (11.0).
UNIVEY SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE John

FAI HARP LAGER CUP Semi-final: Bohemans

GREAT MULS LEAGUE Premier Divis

Football

3.0 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Charlton v Luton (2.15) ...

back, David Lyon, for the first summer season and have put him straight into the side to meet Swinton today. AUSTRALIAN PREPARENSHIP: Western Sub-urs 22 Auckland 8.

SIND-UNION
STRITISH OPEN (Phymouth) Second round: S
Lee (Eng) bt M Hailett (Eng) 5-3; A MoNanus
15ou) tr S James (Eng) 5-4; Ebden (Eng) bt O
Teylor (N tril 5-4; 1 Higgirs (Soo) bt J Fergason
(Eng) 5-4; Williams (Wai) bt N Foulist (Eng) 5-1;
S Hendly (Soo) bt J Swali (N Iril 5-1.

LEDES BRITISH OPEN (Cardiff) Men's sec-ond round: P Johnson (Engl bi T Hands (Engl 15-17 15-11 15-12 15-13; C Jacoman (Engl bt V Cardwell (Aus) 9-1 9-5 9-8; F Gasves (Engl bt R Macree (Engl 9-5 9-0 9-0; I Bornetat (Fr) bt C Walter (Engl 15-13 15-9 12-15 15-8.

Table tennis ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Kette Singles quelifying group, second stage: Men: A Peny (Eng) bt J Verhuist (Neth) 21-15 21-15

Reabok Tour event at Hull yesterday.

FAMILY CIRCLE CUP WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Hitton Head, South Caroline) First
round: J Novotna (Cz Rep) bt A Carisson (Swei
6-15-76-3; M Joe Fernández (US) bt J Kunger
(SA) 6-19-1; P Begerow (Ger) bt P Schwerz (Aut)
6-26-3. Second round: C Martinez (Sp) bt S

PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Liverpool v Eventon (12.0) (at Haig Avenue, Southport). AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Di-vision: Portsmouth v Ipswich (2.0). Rugby Union CLUB MATCHES: Camborne v St Nes (3.01: Redruth v St Mary's Hospital (3.0); Weston-su-per-Mare President's XV v Somerset President's

Rugby League

Stones SUPER LEAGUE: Castleford v Leodo
(7-30): Oldham v Halfax (3.0); Sheffield v Bradford (7-30): St Helens v Wigen (3.30); Warmigton
v Workingson (3.0). First Division: Devsbury
v Batley (7-30): Rochdale v Reighley (7-30): Salford v Widnes (3.0): Walerfield v Feathersone
(7-30): Whitehaven v Huddersfield (3.30). Second Division: Barrow v Carlote (7-30); Chorlecy v Doracter (3.0): Hurslet v Brantley (7-30):
Leigh v Swinton (3.0): Prescot v South Wales
(7-30): York v Hud langston Rovers (3.15).

TODAY'S FIXTURES Basketball

> ingham Peugeot Bullets (8.0). **Speedway** EUROPEAN CUP: Cradley Heath & Stoke v Rospiggema (Swe) (7.30),

PREMIER LEAGUE: Belle Vue v Long Eaton (7.30); Ipsach v London (2.30); Oxford v Peterborough (12.30); Peterborough v Oxford (7.30); Sheffield v Middlesbrough (7.30). EASTER TROPHY First log: Poole v Exerce

Other sports SNOOKER: British Open (Plymouth Paylions). SQUASH: Leekes British Open (Cardiff). TABLE TENNIS: English Doen (Kettening).

MINDEPENDENT bronchitis and will miss Germany's Davis Cup quarter-final encounter with France in Limoges this weekend. Be the first in the know to find the best snow! **△0891 333 110** occurate, up-to-date snow and weather

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W60 W20 W10 W42 W10

W3-0 L0-1 II3-3

LO-2

Mark Roe looks to the Masters 30



BOAT RACE

Cambridge's lone stranger

Keegan's philosophy faces reality test

GLENN MOORE

Easter is traditionally the time when championship pretenders, like so many chocolate eggs, are exposed as hollow, the promise of the packaging let down by the After Wednesday's dramatic

defeat at Antield the suspicion grows that Newcastle will be thus revealed and their delightful but lightweight team will be surpassed by the heavyweights of Liverpool and Manchester United After conceding 11 goals and gaining one point in their last four away games, Kevin Keegan's recital of the manager's mantra – "there is a long way to go" - sounded as if it should have heen accompanied by a rendition of "We'll

support you ever more", sup-

porters' customary lament to brave defeat

That feeling bardened when it was revealed, yesterday, that Steve Howey's season could be over. Howey damaged a hamstring eight minutes from the end of Newcastle's 4-3 defeat at Anfield. Salt on the wounds for Keegan, who appears to have enough defensive problems already, even if Darren Peacock

is a ready-made replacement. But... go back a year and a day. On April 4 1995, a Chris Sutton goal at Loftus Road put Blackburn Rovers eight points clear of Manchester United at the top of the Premiership. There were six matches to go. The title race, said everybody. was settled.

Not quite. It was another seven weeks before Rovers staggered across the finishing line, favour because Andy Cole had left his finishing touch on Type-

Keegan, like Roy Evans and Alex Ferguson, has been in enough championship chases to

Premiership Table

ster United

Spurs (1)

the personality to convince his players of that. The question is, has be been involved in enough title races as a manager to guide his team to triumpb?

Mon City (a) West Ham (a) Middleshrough

Sheff Wed (h)

know there is enough time for Judging by his pledge to carry Newcastle to win it. He also has on attacking, one wooders.

"We shall go on playing this way, playing the same sort of players, or I will go," he said after Anfield. "If we do not win anything, so be it."

OPR (a)

Brave words, to be applauded by anyone who likes enter-

Liverpook 6 Apr. Covertry (a). 8 Apr. Wes

Hero (td. 18 Apr. Everton (a). 27 Apr. Mid-

prising football, but is it realistic? Roy Evans, a more pragmatic man, did not think so. While Keegan raved about the game, be morosely observed:

Thurs 6 April						
	P	W		L	F	A Pts
Blackburn	36	25	7	4	73	30 82
Man Utd	36	22	8	8	66	24 74
Newcastie	35	18	10	7	57	37 64
Newcastie 1994/5 Float				7	57	37
~~.				£	F	A Pta
		-	•			29 24

Newcoastles 8 Apr. CPR (1), 8 Apr. Blackbs (a), 14 Apr. Aston Villa (1), 17 Apr. Souther ton (a) 29 Apr. Leeds Unded (a), 2 May, No Forust (a), 5 May: Totterhern (1). chester Liaited: 6 Apr. Men City (a). & Covertry (h), 13 Apr. Southempton (a)

defending. You cannot win the championship playing like

Evans recognised that Liverpool had "got away with playing two against two, one against e, at the back, but his mood indicated that he did not see it becoming club policy.

Liverpool were attacked down the centre, where the pace of Les Ferdinand and Fanstino Asprilla exposed the unusual lack of cover. This was once regularly the case with Newcastle but the acquisition of David Batty stiffened that area, instead they were vulnerable on the flanks. With tackling back not in the David Ginola repertoire on one wing, and Keith Gillespie missing on the other, Newcastle's full-backs are often exposed, a problem made worse by their preference for attacking.

words, has compromised once in bringing in David Batty. He may need to do so again to protect the flanks. If he does, we will not find out tomorrow, when Queen's Park Rangers are likely to suffer a backlash at St James' Park, but on Monday, when Newcastle visit Ewood

Park. Defeat there and the dream may really be over, Liverpool and Manchester United do not look as if they are going to drop many points in their run-ins. However, the pressure is now on them and, although Ferguson has been there before, some of his younger players have not. Liverpool are even less experienced as only John Barnes, of Wednesday's starting line-up, knows what it is like to be a champion. It is a rare

Ajax plot fightback

Ajax were quick to warn Panathinaikos against premature celebration after the Greeks' 1-0 victory in Amsterdam on Wednesday in the first leg of their European Cup

The European champions wasted wave after wave of attacks and allowed the Greeks to snatch a precious 1-0 away win with a goal from the Polish striker Krysztof Warzycha four minutes from time. It was set up by a surging 30-yard solo run from their fleet-footed winger Yorgos Donis, who slipped the ball through to Warzycha to

Louis van Gaal, the Ajax coach, stressed: "Ajax has, in the past, won its away games. You shouldn't start cheering too soon." Juan Ramon Rocha, Panathanaikos' Argentine coach, concurred: "We are a step closer to the final in Rome but at this level the home advantage plays a small role, especially against a team like Ajax. But it was a great night for Greek soccer."

The victory sparked celebrations in Athens where thousands of fans took to the streets for a night-long party with cham-pagne and fireworks. Waving club and Greek flags, the fans brought the city alive, blaring car horns and dancing in central squares and streets.

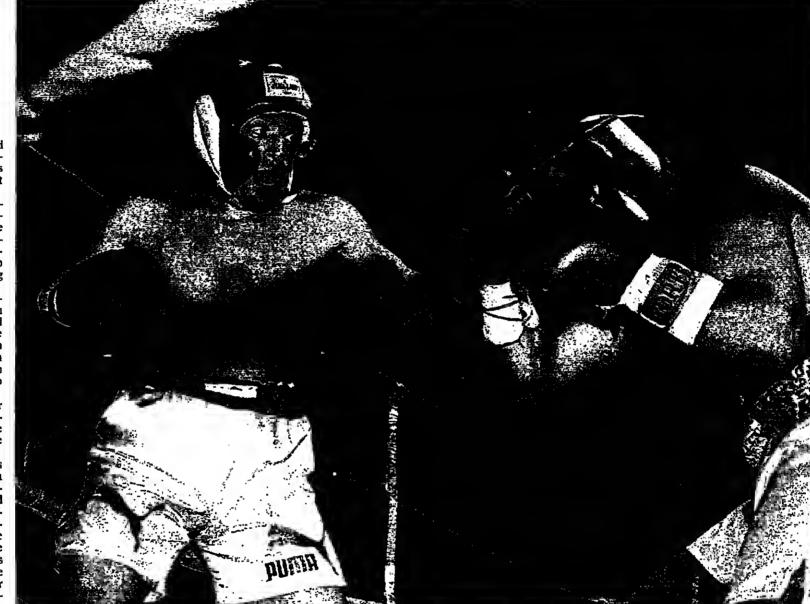
The other semi-final reached its expected outcome with Juventus beating 10-man Nantes 2-0 to sty on course for next mouth's final.

The French side were hindered by the dismissal of midfielder Bruno Carotti on the stroke of half-time for his second bookable offence. The defeuder Serge Le Dizet will also miss the home leg after picking up a second-half booking.

Gianluca Vialli, widely expected to leave Juventus when his contract expires at the end of the season, took advantage by breaking the deadlock with close-range glancing shot in the 50th minute after Pietro Vierchowod fired the ball into the area

The Yugoslav midfielder Vladimir Jugovic doubled Juventus' lead in the 66th minute with a powerful shot from the edge of the area.

■ The German federation has proposed that payments to a central pool which would benefit all professional clubs should replace transfer fees for out-ofcontract players. The federation's league committee made the proposal to a meeting of the country's 36 professional clubs on Tuesday. The committee proposed a transitional transfer system should operate next sea-



son and the new pool system would be in place for 1997/98. Hand of prod: Diego Maradona (left) takes on Falucho Laciar in a charity fight in Cordoba, Argentina

Photograph: Glenn Cratty/Alisport

Friday 5 April 1996.

Arrival of **Beto** 'unlikely'

faulty

The arrival of a third Brazilian, Beto, at Middlesbrough, who face Sheffield Wednesday in the Premiership today, is looking far from certain. Bryan Robson was said to be in the advanced stages of landing the Botafogo striker, but the coach. John Pickering said: "Beto has been mentioned in general conversation but not as an immediate target. I'm not saying he will not come, but I'd be surprised if he did."

Manchester United could be forced to pay Oldham over £500,000 if the schoolboy David Brown makes the grade. A Football League commission has ruled that United must pay Oldham £75,000 following a decision that they had broken the rules when they signed him.

United would have to pay a further £25,000 if Brown makes five first-team appearances followed by £100,000 after 25 agrapearances. Another £25,000 will be due if Brown is capped at England Under-21 level and £100,000 if he plays a full international.

Gerry Francis. the Tottenham manager, has admitted Darren Anderton's chances of playing again this season are growing who hoped to play a full reserve match against-West Ham on Tuesday, pulled out after suffering a stomach strain in training.

Aston Villa are to offer a new contract to Paul McGrath, their 36-year-old central defender, who has been with the club seven years and will be entitled to a free transfer. "Paul has earned the right to do what he wants to but he knows and I know that there will be an offer," Brian Little, the Villa manager, said.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

The Franklin Crossword Puzzle Selver has all the answers. To order Frenklin products, ring 81252 881500.

- Season? One gorging overlooks pinch of fenu-
- greek (6) Pots birds circling river
- 10 Expert in housecraft? (15) 11 Nick's belt (5)
- 12 Fiddle with one new ridge (inverted, before) (9) 13 Love's adorned with elegant Eastern flower (6) 15 Back the Queen's in
- handicap (6) 16 Fellow in a rigid state (6) 18 Alternating switch? (3-3)
- timber (about first in canal) (5) 23 References required by the clerical staff? (7.3.5)

22 Lock calling for length of

- 24 Short guy embracing underworld brutality (6) 25 With infiltration of endless oil, sea's fouled up
- Bring to light former puz- 19 . Frank finds it easy (15)
- Slur, one cutting doyen no end (5) Sort out back, and sweep
- Not the ideal containers for bulbs (7.8) Sulphur's liable to sepa-

EAPNESS

- rate (6) Moderate university politician, I note? (6) Take hold of the bit (6) Sparks off drills (9)
- Old slab of cork, say, floating on river (6) 18 Give, as well (6) Calculating sort, one American, holding vehicle
- up (6) 20 Line for tenor (6) Girl employed in the French bank (5)

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Big selection of selectors

Cricket

DAVID LLEWELLYN

And then there were nine. The queue for the two vacancies on the England selection committee grew to unprecedented proportions, turning the midnight deadline on Wednesday into the "whiching" hour. The former Test players Geoff Miller and Chris Cowdrey were added to the list which now reads: Ian Botham, David Graveney, Fred Titmus, Brian Bolus, John Edrich, Kim Barnett, Graham

Gooch, Miller and Cowdrey. Miller was the choice of Hampshire, and immediately prompted their chief executive, Tony Baker, a member of the Test and County Cricket Board's executive committee, to query the way the election will now be run. Baker said: "It could be an embarrassing election, as I don't think the firstpast-the-post system is ideal when there are as many as nine postal ballot, so the counties

candidates to choose from. But part of the problem is that this situation has not arisen before. I'm not criticising, but it could have been better if there were a two-tier system for reaching the final two selections.

Questions still remain about Botham's media commitments. Gooch and Barnett's playing duties and Gravency's opposition to Illingworth in last month's abortive chairman-ofselectors contest. Lord's yesterday stressed that a circular to counties sent out by the Test and County Cricket Board chief executive. Alan Smith, had been designed merely to give guidance rather than to comment unfavourably on Botham's potential clash of interests with his media work. 'Alan was certainly not trying to put the block on anyone, the

TCCB spokesman, Richard Little, said. Lord's stipulated midnight on 17 April as the deadline for the now have the best part of a fortnight to settle down and consider logically who would be best suited to the selectors' duties. However, the prospect of confusion, and a possible second ballot, looms after the result of the voting is made public on 18

Each of the 18 first-class counties, plus MCC and the Minor Counties, have two votes, which means a total of 40 must he cast. Theoretically, just six votes may be enough to carn someone the joh, but it is more likely the second and third places could end in a tie.

In that case, a second ballot between those contenders would be needed, with the candidate who received most votes in the first place being automatically selected. But, given the general confusion which seems to shroud English cricket at pre-sent. h is just as likely that more than two candidates could dead-heat at the top of the vut-

Hill puts priority on qualifying

Motor racing

Damon Hill believes the qualifying sessions will be even more important than usual as he attempts to claim his third victory in as many grands prix this season in the Argentine event on Sunday.
The Williams' driver won

the opening grand prix in Mel-bourne last month and foltowed that hy sneaking to success in the Brazilian Grand Prix at São Paulo last weekend. Victory in Sunday's 72-lap race at the 4.259km Oscar Alfredo Galvez circuit, where he

a comfortable advantage over his rivals before the Formula One series switches to the European season at the Nürburgring in Germany on 28 April. "It is a circuit on which it is difficult to pass." Hill said, "but

it is certainly a fun track to

won last season, would give him

drive on as well. The main thing is that it is vital to try and third in Brazil. get a good grid position."

The tight and technical circuit is likely to bring into contention Hill has been relaxing with his wife, Georgie, on the Brazilian coast since his victory last Sun-day. There was no such luxury for his Williams team-mate, several teams who cannot match those three for power, including the Tyrrells of Finland's Mika Salo and his Japanese team-mate, Ukyı Katayama. Jacques Villeneuve, who spun off in the treacherous wet con-The Jordans of the Brazilian, Rubens Barrichello, who looked certain to finish in the ditions. The Canadian is determined to atone for that

mistake in Argentina and em-ulate his impressive debut dispoints until he spun off in Brazil, and Martin Brundle are play in Australia, when he also likely to play major parts this weekend. "I am hoping for a dry race, obviously." he said. "I have not However, Johnny Herbert, who drives for Sauber, thinks Hill has merely to keep his head to take the world title. "He just had much experience of wet

hasn't got a threat out there, he said. "Probably his only danger is his team-mate. Jacques, because the Williams is easily the best car this year.

once again from the Benetton Damon should win the title. second in Brazil, and the world He has had a great start to the champion, Michael Schumachseason and should do it."

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finished second.

weather racing and that was a

disadvantage for me in Brazil.

It was only my second time."
The two Williams men expect

their biggest challenge to come

team's Jean Alesi, who was